Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 97

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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PSS honors 43 students, 20 teachers for Acheive3000 use, reading growth. PAGE 2

IPI creditors ask court to lift stay on liquidation of IPI's personal property. PAGE 3

DeLeon Guerrero accepts Palacios' invitation to join CNMI 902 team

DeLeon Guerrero

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has accepted Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' invitation to join the CNMI team for the 902 talks between the CNMI and U.S. governments.

"I am deeply honored by the invitation and I humbly accept it," said DeLeon Guerrero in her letter to Palacios last Friday.

The Senate president said she looks forward to a 902 team that will be cohesive and harmonious in presenting the CNMI's plans to redefine and redirect all efforts for a better economy, enhancement of the tourism industry, expanded and fortified infrastructure,

See TEAM on Page 4

'Senate is plagued with dysfunctional leadership'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) held a press conference in her office yesterday in response to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero's (D-Saipan) decision to remove her as chair for the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said yesterday that a longstanding dysfunctional leadership has plagued the Senate for the past 16 months.

See SENATE on Page 4

STUDENTS REPAINT HISTORIC SUGAR TRAIN ENGINE

MVA

ROTA—Marianas Visitors Authority Rota Field Operations supervisor David Atalig, left, organizes students of the National Honor Society of Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School on Rota in a community project on May 11, 2024 to celebrate Marianas Tourism Month. The students repainted a historic sugar industry train engine dating back to the Japanese administration of the islands in the early 1900s.

MVA

ROTA—Students of the National Honor Society of Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School on Rota marked Marianas Tourism Month by repainting a historic sugar industry train engine dating back to the Japanese administration era in the early 1900s. The project was undertaken on May 11, 2024, with the Marianas Visitors Authority in celebration of Marianas Tourism Month.

Palacios in Japan for int'l conference

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios left the CNMI last Monday to attend an international conference in Tokyo, Japan hosted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

See PALACIOS on Page 4

United Airlines implements Narita-Saipan sked change

Cavanagh

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After nearly two years of lobbying for this change, the Marianas Visitors Authority's efforts have finally paid off with United Airlines officially implementing a schedule change that

See UNITED on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
In honor of its 100th anniversary, the Guam Chamber of Commerce hosted its centennial jubilee on May 4, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.
PAGE 9

WORLD
Russian troops were locked in intense battles with Ukrainian soldiers around the embattled town of Vovchansk in northeast Ukraine on Monday.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
Less than three years ago, Mary Ann and David Giordano were taking turns lying on the living room floor with their Afghan hound Frankie, hand-feeding the desperately ill dog anything she would eat.
PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

PSS honors 43 students, 20 teachers for Acheive3000 use, reading growth

PSS

Public school students and teachers who have earned the Achieve3000 literacy gains distinction pose for a group photo. They are joined by education leaders including Board of Education secretary/treasurer Gregory Pat Borja and Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho.

The Public School System last May 9 honored 43 elementary, middle, and high school students who have demonstrated outstanding literacy gains through the Achieve3000 Literacy Program, a globally recognized digital supplemental learning program that helps students improve their reading and comprehension skills.

PSS also recognized 20 classroom teachers for their dedication and consistency in implementing Achieve 3000 in their instruction.

A Lexile level is a common method used by schools to measure a student's reading ability. The CNMI PSS strives for all students to be at or above grade level in reading comprehension.

At the Literacy Celebration event, State Board of Education secretary/treasurer Gregory P. Borja and PSS Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho congratulated the students and teacher awardees. Both education leaders expressed their appreciation to Achieve 3000 officials for their continued partnership and support.

Borja and Camacho credited the students and teachers hard work and achievements. The education leaders also lauded the support and partnership the awardees have received at home and at school.

Joining PSS officials in honoring students and teachers in the Marianas High School cafeteria on Thursday were visiting officials of the McGraw Hill/International Achieve3000 Programs: Patrick Staley, senior director for product and professional services, and Julie Eckard, director for business development. Parents, school officials, other educators and community members also witnessed the celebration.

Staley shared, "We are thrilled to continue our journey with CNMI PSS and celebrate another year of student and teacher success. I had the honor of sharing data with the community that saw reading scores improve 66% over a three-year period for students using Achieve3000. Our mission is to accelerate learning and there is no better example of that than right here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

Eckard stated, "Congratulations students on another year of amazing reading gains. Achieve3000 is honored to continue partnering with the CNMI PSS. Year after year, we are so impressed with the department, administrators and teachers always putting Students First."

Achieve3000 is a globally recognized provider of "differentiated instruction and learning acceleration" in the U.S. and 49 other countries.

In the CNMI, public and private schools use Achieve3000 to aid student achievement and success, particularly in reading.

The federal Every Students Succeeds Act, for its part, recognizes Achieve3000 "for demonstrating strong evidence of efficacy based on results from third-party randomized controlled trial study."

Awardees

The 43 students who were recognized for their top Lexile growth from their schools based on and Achieve3000:

■ Garapan Elementary School — Jhon Joseph Salas and Austin Soter Bell

■ GTC Elementary School — Lazarus Augustus Moses and Rudith Laluna Camacho

■ Kagman Elementary School — Oston Gregory Naputi and Chanel Marie Siruelo

■ Koblerville Elementary School — Nevaeh Josie Kateri Cabrera and Suhana Miah

■ Oleai Elementary School — Maia Borja and Floreigh Jane Lanoy

■ San Vicente Elementary School — Kimberly Lacsina and Jeffrey James Pangelinan

■ Sinapalo Elementary School — Ge'selle Estefania Barcinas and Titus Feolino

■ Tinian Elementary School — Rickson Quenzy Manglona and Jay Junior San Nicolas

■ William S. Reyes Elementary School — Zion Ray Camacho and Hafsa Rahaman

■ Hopwood Middle School — Dynno Markel Rivera and Kyla Macabanti

■ Chacha Oceanview Middle School — Payton Thomas Pangelinan and Tiana Therese Norita

■ Dandan Middle School — Normaine Nate and Ciara Alyssa Villagomez

■ Francisco M. Sablan Middle School — Boyu Zhou and Jhon Albert Dilao

■ Tanapag Middle School — Malayah Elloisa Loma and BJ Belocora

■ Da'ok Academy — Renato Abubo and Tayshawna Rose Lieto

■ Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School — Jevin Nerizon (High School), Arafat Sikder (High School), Naysha Teree Barcinas (Junior High) and Hailey Sage Manglona (Junior High)

■ Kagman High School — Preston Joel Ngiramos and Elle Brie Tudela

■ Marianas High School — Joshua Kim and Md. Molla

■ Saipan Southern High School — Jasmine Kyle Saluta and Leidy Audry Fhaye Agacoscos

■ Tinian Middle & High School — Justice Aldan (High School), Yuan Xiao (High School), and Si Jie Sarah Lin (Middle School)

The classroom teachers honored for their excellence of program use are the following: John Aldrich (Garapan Elementary School); Deborah Moore (GTC Elementary School); Celestial Jewel Dela Cruz (Kagman Elementary School); Angela Ruiz (Koblerville Elementary School); Alberta Aldan (Oleai Elementary School); Yvette Tenorio (San Vicente Elementary School); Enterina Calvo (Sinapalo Elementary School); Jenina Manglona (Tinian Elementary School); Ilyssa Geronimo (WSR Elementary School); Kimberly Palacios (Hopwood Middle School); Peter Mesngon (Chacha Oceanview Middle School); Edinna Cepeda(Dandan Middle School); Imelda Bautista (Francisco M. Sablan Middle School); Jane Babauta (Tanapag Middle School); Mercedes Deleon Guerrero (Da'ok Academy); Deseriee Pendergrass (Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School); Leslie Rodolfo (Kagman High School); Leilani Iramk (Marianas High School); Michelle Rasa (Saipan Southern High School); and Kevin Pangelinan (Tinian Middle and High School). ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2024

Opening date: May 15, 2024 **Closing date: June 5, 2024**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY**

Position(s):

(1) Staff Engineer **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Highly responsible for all engineering programs and activities of CPA.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of engineering programs and activities at the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

(1) STAFF ATTORNEY **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of the Directors and the Executive Director to provide legal assistance and advice on a day-to-day basis and to render such legal services as may be requested. Required to perform such services as may be designated, including but not limited to, all or any portion of the employer's administrative, supervisory, planning and other obligations in the operations of the airports and seaport of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

1. Must be a U.S. citizen.
2. Member (active) of the CNMI Bar.
3. Graduated with Juris Doctor degree from an accredited U.S. law school.
4. At least five (5) years work experience in either the government or private practice, and at least three (3) years experience in civil litigation, including jury trials.
5. Have never been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, in any jurisdiction.
6. Shall have no felony or criminal conviction.

(1) COMPTROLLER **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Difficult and highly responsible professional accounting work involving the management and supervision of CPA's major accounting program.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of all phases and functions of CPA's accounting program consisting of several numbers of subordinate accountants and account clerical personnel. Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Must possess four (4) year degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in professional Accounting, Finance or managerial level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience. Accounting experience in autonomous agencies and/or U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 05, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

IPI creditors asks court to lift stay on liquidation of IPI's personal property

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC creditors have filed a motion with the U.S. District Court for the NMI asking the court to lift the automatic stay and allow court appointed receiver Clear Management Ltd to proceed with the sale of IPI's personal property.

IPI creditors Joshua Gray and USA Fanter Corp. (both of whom were granted a limited receivership for the sale of IPI's personal property prior to IPI filing for bankruptcy), have filed a motion asking the federal court to lift the automatic stay on the sale of IPI's personal property.

According to court documents, prior to IPI's bankruptcy petition, Gray and USA Fanter acted expeditiously to obtain writs of execution against IPI's personal property, levy upon those writs, and began liquidating the property subject to those writs. They claim they should be allowed to proceed.

"The automatic stay has been devastating to Clear Management, Ltd. who spent $40,550 preparing for a vehicle auction, whose staff member has now left because no work can be done, and who is fielding emails from bidders asking that their money be returned. [Gray and USA Fanter] will suffer as the personal property depreciates and may be damaged or stolen if the stay is not lifted," said the motion.

The creditors argue that IPI has no ownership interest in the personal property and it is not needed for a reorganization.

As relief, the creditor is asking the court for an order finding that the personal property subject to their respective receiverships is not "property of the estate" under Bankruptcy Code §541 and thus the automatic stay does not apply to the continued liquidation of that property to satisfy their judgments.

As an alternative relief, should the court hold that IPI's personal property is property of the estate, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §362(d), the creditors ask that the court modify and lift the automatic stay to allow Gray and Fanter to exercise their rights with respect to IPI personal property.

Another alternative, the creditors suggest, is for the court to find that IPI does not have an equity in the personal property and such property is not necessary to an effective reorganization.

The creditors also ask that the court require IPI to make protection payments to Gray and Fanter for any diminution in value of the personal property under Bankruptcy Code §361 caused by the delay in lifting the stay.

Last April 19, IPI filed a voluntary petition under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code with the District Court for the NMI declaring bankruptcy.

NMCADSV launches 2024 BOLA nominations

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is pleased to announce the launch of nominations for the prestigious 2024 Bridge of Light Award. Each year, NMCADSV honors an individual who displays remarkable commitment to supporting victims, survivors, and the community in addressing domestic and sexual violence in the CNMI.

The Bridge of Light Award aims to highlight those who have made significant contributions within eligible agencies, organizations, or offices in the CNMI. Eligible candidates include service providers, first responders, representatives, or volunteers with at least one year of employment or volunteer service. Nominees should demonstrate outstanding qualities such as leadership, advocacy for victims, community education, prevention efforts, and resource development.

"We are excited to open nominations for the 2024 Bridge of Light Award," said Kiki I. Benjamin, associate director of NMCADSV. "This award celebrates the exceptional efforts of individuals and serves as a beacon of hope for our community as we unite against domestic and sexual violence."

Nominations are open to victims, survivors, family members, friends, as well as members, representatives, and employees from eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices. To nominate a deserving individual, visit the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BOLA2024. The deadline for submissions is Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, at 11:59pm.

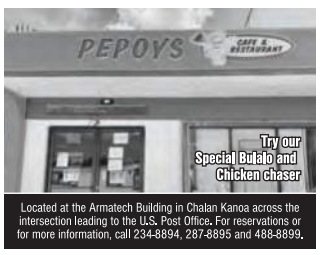
During the evaluation process, nominations will be carefully reviewed based on the information provided in the form. Those submitting nominations are encouraged to provide detailed explanations expressing why their nominee is deserving of this esteemed recognition.

The recipient of the 2024 Bridge of Light Award will be announced during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing ceremony in October. Furthermore, the awardee will be granted an exclusive opportunity to participate in a national training program provided by NMCADSV, in addition to receiving self-care prizes sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Bridge Capital, LLC.

Past recipients of the Bridge of Light Award include Flora Aguon, a Department of Public Safety officer; Lauri B. Ogumoro, executive director of Karidat Social Services; Mildred W. Sikebert, a social worker with the Division of Youth Services; Elaine C. Dela Cruz, a counselor at Karidat Social Services; Diana Camacho, executive director of Ayuda Network Inc.; John Aguon, a victim advocate at the Attorney General's Office; Vivian T. Sablan, director of DYS; Rose Taman Rios, a Department of Public Safety officer; Calvani P. Deleon Guerrero, a victim advocate at Karidat Social Services; Lupe Ann L. Maratita; and most recently, Shannon Dela Cruz, a detective at the Department of Public Safety.

For more details regarding the 2024 Bridge of Light Award or to inquire about the nomination process, reach out to NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or via email at info@endviolencenmi.org.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of sexual violence, assistance is available. Please call 911 for immediate emergency support or contact the 24/7 Karidat Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100. ***(PR)***



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

SUPREME COURT
THE JUDICIARY
REPUBLIC OF PALAU
P.O. Box 248 Koror, Palau 96940
Telephone: Koror : (680) 488-2607/4979/3331 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2330/2482/2607 • Facsimile: Koror (680) 488-1597 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2606
E-mail address: judiciary@palausupremecourt.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Trial Division of the Palau Supreme Court is currently scheduling hearings on pending land claims in Ngarchelong, Palau. The cases with pending claims are as follows:

Civil Action No. 23-114
Civil Action No. 23-120
Civil Action No. 23-115
Civil Action No. 23-121
Civil Action No. 23-116
Civil Action No. 23-122
Civil Action No. 23-117
Civil Action No. 23-123
Civil Action No. 23-118
Civil Action No. 23-124
Civil Action No. 23-119

The following individuals are listed as Claimants:

- **Susana Flores Delos Reyes aka Susana Delos Reyes Mendiola**
- **Lawrence J. Aflague, Jr.**
- **Eugenia Flores James aka Eugenia James Aflague**
- **Gabriel Borja**
- **Frank Flores**
- **Frederica Flores Santos**
- **Maccarthy John Borja**
- **Atanacio Borja**
- **Pedro Tudela Borja, Jr.**
- **Teresa D. Laguana**

These Claimants or their children, heirs, descendants, or other authorized representatives are requested to contact the Clerk of Courts to update their contact information. This is necessary to facilitate calendaring of hearings and addressing any logistical arrangements, such as attending hearings virtually through remote court proceedings if they are unable to attend in person.

Allison Idip Sengebau
Palau Supreme Court
P.O. Box 248
Koror, Palau 96940
Tel: (680)488-2607
Mobile: (680) 775-4914
asengebau@palausupremecourt.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER-SAIPAN, MP: Design, dev., analyze, & maint. s/w apps & solutions. Troubleshoot & resolve s/w related issues. Translate reqmts. into functional code. Create & maint. design docs. Must have bachelor's (or foreign equiv.) deg. in comp sci., info tech. or closely related. Requires 1 yr. of work exp. Mail resume: Governful LLC, Ref. #7422, 4190 Talofofo Rd, Talofofo, Saipan, MP 96950.

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Court imposes $25K bail on men who stole vacuum cleaners

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed separate $25,000 cash bails on two men accused of stealing vacuum cleaners and a humidifier.

Last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed separate $25,000 cash bails on Joseph Lee and Gyles Ruluked, two men accused of stealing vacuum cleaners and a humidifier from the Marianas Eye Institute.

Lee, 26, and Ruluked, 39, are both facing burglary and theft charges.

After appearing before Camacho last week for a bail hearing, they were remanded back to Department of Corrections' custody.

The two are scheduled to appear in court today for a preliminary hearing while their arraignments are set for June.

According to court documents, last April 28, the Department of Public Safety received a call from the Marianas Eye Institute reporting a burglary and theft incident.

At the scene, responding officers observed that the clinic's container was broken into, and two vacuum cleaners and a humidifier were reported stolen.

Surveillance footage identified Lee as a suspect and on April 29, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio signed off on an arrest warrant for Lee.

On May 2, DPS canine officers Jesse Deleon Guerrero and Giovanni Taitingfong spotted Lee standing next to a Kia Seltos on a northbound lane of a road behind Saipan Computer Services in Garapan and served him the arrest warrant.

The officers showed Lee the security camera footage of him and another individual breaking into Marianas Eye's container.

According to court documents, Lee himself identified Ruluked as the second person in the footage. Lee also told police that a third individual, Glarisha Mabel, dropped him and Ruluked off on the unpaved road near Marianas Eye on the day the burglary and theft occurred.

In a follow-up operation on May 6, detectives Daniel Kaipat and Vincent Rangamar met with Mabel near the old Japanese jail in Garapan.

Mabel told police that on the day of the incident, Lee told her that they had a mission and left. She said Lee returned 30 minutes later with Ruluked.

Mabel added when the pair came back, she saw Lee put vacuum cleaners in the trunk of the car and a humidifier in the backseat.

Finance: Tax fraud is theft and will not be tolerated

Tax collection and enforcement are top priorities of the CNMI government. Currently, the Department of Finance and the Division of Revenue and Taxation are working closely with the Office of the Attorney General to identify and pursue tax crimes, including tax evasion and tax fraud.

Tax fraud is a deliberate attempt to evade taxes or to defraud DRT. Tax fraud takes place when a person or company willfully does one of the following:

- Intentionally fails to pay taxes owed
- Willfully fails to file a federal income tax return
- Fails to report all income - Makes false or fraudulent claims

In addition, employers have a legal obligation to collect and pay over taxes withheld from employee wages to DRT. Any person who willfully fails to comply with these obligations can be held criminally liable. The law also provides for a civil penalty equal to the total amount of the tax not collected and paid over. This penalty can be imposed on any responsible person, which could include an officer of a corporation, a partner, a sole proprietor, or an employee.

Employers who fail to collect and remit employment taxes due are stealing from their employees and the government. Those who are responsible for deducting taxes from employees' wages and intentionally using these funds for other purposes will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Tax fraud hurts the whole community and must be stopped. Anyone with information regarding potential tax fraud or other tax crimes may contact:

- The Division of Revenue & Taxation — (670) 664-1040
- The Office of the Public Auditor- (670) 235-3937
- The Office of the Attorney General — (670) 237-7500. ***(PR)***

SENATE

From page 1

"We have had no leadership meetings. Not a single one," said Babauta during a press conference in her office.

As to how and when her rift with Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) started, Babauta disclosed it's petty—over parking space designation.

Babauta called for a press conference in response to the recent decision of DeLeon Guerrero to remove her as chairwoman of the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law and replaced her with Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian).

DeLeon Guerrero cited numerous pending bills and not holding a committee meeting for eight months. She also discussed her decision during the Senate special session on Monday.

Babauta said yesterday that since their inauguration, there have been no leadership meetings despite repeated requests from members of the leadership.

Babauta said DeLeon Guerrero has just refused to call for a leadership meeting.

She said her removal from JGL Committee is disappointing, but not surprising given her recent endorsement of Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) to seek a seat in the Senate race the November general elections.

"I believe the decision to remove me from my chairmanship is simply political desperation. It is unfortunate that they feel the need to bring me down to lift themselves up, but my focus remains on serving the constituents of the Commonwealth," she said.

Babauta said she was unable to hold meetings in the JGL Committee following the resignation of Sen. Dennis Mendiola (R-Rota) and the refusal of Sens. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), and Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) to take Mendiola's place.

Babauta said, however, that's not only the reason of her removal as there have been things happening in the Senate that she does not want to disclose as "it's just petty."

On DeLeon Guerrero's leadership, Babauta said the Senate president has assumed the role and authority typically reserved for the floor leader.

This action, she said, effectively concentrates power and control in the hands of the Senate president, creating an imbalance and a pattern of unilateral decision-making where only bills favored by the president are prioritized on the calendar.

"She controls everything now. The floor leader really doesn't have any powers anymore, except to make motions to pass and adopt committees, reports or anything like that," Babauta said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

UNITED

From page 1

would benefit tourists traveling from Japan to Saipan, local traveling to the mainland, and overall the CNMI economy.

According to MVA chair Gloria Cavanaugh last May 7, United Airlines officially implemented a long-awaited schedule change.

The new scheduled flight will depart Tokyo-Narita International Airport on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday at 5:30pm and arrive at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 9:55pm and depart Saipan on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11:50am and arrive in Tokyo at 2:25pm.

Cavanagh said MVA is ecstatic about this new change.

"In 2022, we tried to get a better schedule. With the previous schedule, tourist coming in from Japan lose about a day as far as hotel stay and enjoying their vacation. We are very happy United was able to change the schedule. We've worked with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and federal agencies to get this schedule change," she said.

The MVA chair said with the new schedule, she hopes the CNMI will see better results in terms of the flight's load factor.

"It's been two years since the start of this [flight], we've had mediocre success. With the new schedule, I believe that we'll be able to see a lot better interest in coming over," she said.

In addition, Cavanagh said the new schedule works really well for those catching connecting flights from Narita to the mainland.

"So for our locals, instead of waiting for six hours for a connecting flight at Narita airport, you're now only waiting two and a half hours. I think everyone is going to benefit from this schedule change and this will be a win-win for both the CNMI and United Airlines," she said.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, the new schedule brings several benefits for Japanese visitors to the Marianas. An early evening departure time from Tokyo-Narita is more familiar and more convenient for most Japanese travelers and especially the family market, which comprises most of Japanese visitors to the Marianas.

In addition, the late morning departure time from Saipan will reduce the number of required hotel nights, reducing travel expenses for travel to the Marianas. This new schedule will also benefit passengers transiting through Tokyo as they travel between the Marianas and the U.S. mainland as it shortens the layover time in Tokyo-Narita to just a few hours.

The Marianas received 838 visitors from Japan in February 2024 compared to 605 visitors in February 2023. Although the number of Japanese travelling abroad has nearly doubled in the last year, the number was still 42% lower in January 2024 compared to pre-pandemic in 2019.

PALACIOS

From page 1

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang has been designated acting governor as Palacios will be out of the Commonwealth from Monday to Friday.

At the conference, leaders of major cities from around the globe will be discussing initiatives and future prospects for solving challenges that are faced by large and small cities.

According to the Office of the Governor yesterday, the conference will be held at the City Leaders Program during the Sustainable High City Tech Tokyo 2024 Summit.

Palacios will engage in face-to-face meetings with Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike this Thursday about sustainability issues, to encourage more investments from Japan, and to identify other opportunities for partnership between Tokyo and the CNMI.

Koike invited Palacios to attend the conference. This is the first time that CNMI is invited to this international conference in Tokyo.

At the conference, Palacios will also be presenting alongside other leaders and will be part of a panel on environmental sustainability.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office funded the governor's travel.

While in Japan, Palacios is also hosting the Marianas Visitors Authority-led Marianas Seminar which brings together representatives from tour agencies, airlines, and other tourism industry organizations to promote the CNMI as a destination.

MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion and MVA board member Sachiko Gerrard accompanied the governor in the events.

TEAM

From page 1

and a healthy local workforce.

Last April 26, Palacios sent a letter to U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. requesting consultations between the CNMI and U.S. governments pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant to establish the CNMI in political union with the U.S.

Section 902 provides that the U S. and CNMI governments "will designate special representatives to meet and consider in good faith such issues affecting the relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States as may be designated by either government and to make a report and recommendations with respect thereto."

The Covenant provides for the 902 talks every 10 years.

Palacios wrote a letter last Friday to DeLeon Guerrero, inviting her, or her designee, to join the CNMI team.

The governor said he is assembling a team to participate in these 902 talks and would like to include a representative of each house of the CNMI Legislature.

Palacios said in the 2016 round of 902 talks, which took place in Washington, D.C., the CNMI; and Honolulu, he himself served as a representative of the Senate.

The governor said they look forward to a response from the White House appointing a special representative so that the 902 consultation process can begin.

"My administration is ready to work with the United States in furtherance of our mutual goal to improve the lives of the people of the Northern Marianas, consistent with our Covenant," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero said in her acceptance letter that as a former secretary of the Department of Labor, she sees herself sharing the utmost foreseeable solutions for the CNMI's need for efficient and adequate manpower.

Moreover, DeLeon Guerrero said, as the Senate president, she can confidently share her visions that will carry the CNMI in meeting the challenges that they will certainly encounter in the years to come.

For this round of 902 consultations, Palacios proposes to engage with the U.S. government on three priority issues: direct financial assistance under Section 702 of the Covenant; tourism and transportation infrastructure; and access to skilled labor.

4-H Summer Camps now open for registration

The 4-H Youth Development Program at the University of Guam will be holding 12 themed summer camps for children ages 6 to 18. The first set of week-long camps begins on May 28.

New to the 4-H camp line-up this summer are camps focused on health and wellness, gardening, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), and home economics. The popular fisheries camp, which teaches fishing safety, how to cast a rod and reel, how to cast a net, and ridge-to-reef environmental stewardship, will be offered this year for both middle and high school aged youth.

UOG

Summer campers take a group photo after a day of rod-and-reel fishing off the coast of Ypan for the 4-H Junior Fishing Summer Camp in June 2022.

May 28-31

■ Crime Scene Investigation
Ages 9-12
8am-Noon
Registration fee: $125

■ Health & Wellness
Ages 8-12
8am-Noon
Registration fee: $125

■ High Flyers Aviation
Ages 6-9
1pm-5pm
Registration fee: $125

■ Creative Me
Ages 6-8
1pm-5pm
Registration fee: $125

June 3-7

■ Little Gardeners
Ages 10-14
8am-noon
Registration fee: $125

■ Bugs and Us
Ages 10-14
8am-noon
Registration fee: $125

■ Crazy Experiments
Ages 6-8
1pm-5pm
Registration fee: $125

■ STEAM
Ages 10-14
1pm-5pm
Registration fee: $125

■ Ethixquest Philosophy Camp
Ages: Middle school
5pm-7pm
Registration fee: Free

June 24-28

■ Home Economics
Ages: 9-12
Time: 8am- 4pm
Registration fee: $185

■ Smart Start
Ages 6-9: 8am-noon
Ages 10-14: 1pm- 5pm
Registration fee: $125
July 1-12

■ High School Fisheries
Ages 14-18
9am- 4pm
Registration fee: Free
July 15-Aug. 2:

■ Junior Fisheries
Ages 10-13
Time: 8am-4pm
Registration fee: $275

To register, visit the 4-H office in Room 111 of the Agriculture & Life Sciences building on the UOG campus, or call (671) 735-2040. For more information, email 4-H State Program Leader Cliff Kyota at ckyota@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-016

Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the replacement of the waterline at Sihek Dr. in Capital Hill and Tangan-Tangan Dr. in Papago with the installation of new 6-inch PVC distribution main including appurtenances, valves, fittings, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, pressure-reducing valve, and reconnection and relocation of existing service laterals to the right-of-way. The project also includes the construction of the waterline replacement along Kailing Dr. in Dandan. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-24-016, Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 4, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of *fifteen percent (15%)* of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.
This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 21, 2024,** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org also to Mr. Mark Liban via email at mark.liban@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program
Caller Box 10007 Bldg. No. 1347/1344 Ascension Drive
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.childcare.gov.mp

Vision for Children and Families:
"All children in the CNMI will be safe, healthy, and thriving members of our culturally diverse community. Their families will have access to the high quality supports they need to achieve their potential."

Notice
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program
Public Hearing for State Plan FFY2025 to 2027

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program will hold a public hearing to provide an opportunity for the community to comment on the provisions of child care services under the CNMI CCDF State Plan for FFY2025-2027.

All interest persons are invited to attend the hearing to provide their comments relative to the proposed State Plan either orally or in writing at the hearing. The Public Hearing is scheduled for these dates, times, and location.

Date	Location	Time
May 31, 2024	Kagman Community Center, Saipan	530pm to 730pm
June 11, 2024	Tinian Public Library	530pm to 730pm
June 13, 2024	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall	530pm to 730pm
June 14, 2024	Multi Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan	530pm to 730pm

A sign language interpreter is available at all public hearings. Large prints of the summary of the CNMI CCDF State Plan may be provided if a written request is made at least 5-working days before the scheduled hearing. All written request should be forwarded to ewabol.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp with the subject line: Request for Large Print of Summary of CCDF State Plan.

Copies of the proposed CNNMI CCDF Plan will be available for download by May 11, 2024 via the childcare website at childcare.gov.mp.

All written comments should be received by the Child Care and Development Fund on or before June 15, 204 and addressed to: Maribel Loste, CCDF Director. Written comments may be submitted at the CCDF Administration Building Bldg. No. 1344 Ascension Ct. Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 or via email at mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp

Anunsiu
Inadahin Påtgun yan Prugråman Dibelopmentun Fondu (CCDF)
Inekkunguk Pupbliku para State Plan FFY2025 to 2027

Ma'anunsia guini på'gu na i Inadahin Påtgun yan Prugråman Dibelopmentun Fondu (i CCDF) gi påpa' i Dipåttamentun Asuntun Kumunidåt yan Kuttura (i DCCA) na siempri mago'ti inekkunguk pupbliku para u manå'i oputtunidåt i kumunidåt para u mahunguk upiñon-ñiha gi mantensión i sitbisiun inadahin påtgun gi påpa' i CNMI CCDF State Plan para FFY2025-2027.

Todu intiresåo na pitsona makumbibida para u ma'atendi i miting para u mahunguk upiñon-ñiha put i mapropoponi na State Plan maseha gi sinangan osino gi tinigi'-ñiha gi miting. I Inekkunguk Pupbliku mapega para esti siha na fetcha, ora, yan lugåt.

Fetcha	Lugåt	Ora
Måyu 31, 2024	Kagman Community Center, Saipan	530pm to 730pm
Huniu 11, 2024	Tinian Public Library	530pm to 730pm
Huniu 13, 2024	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall	530pm to 730pm
Huniu 14, 2024	Multi Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan	530pm to 730pm

Managuaha intetpitin "sign language" gi todu na inekkunguk pupbliku. Siña mapribeniyi håo dångkulun kopian i masumåria na CNMI CCDF State Plan yanggin manrikuesta håo gi tinigi' 5-dihas åntis di i isketyu i miting. Todu i tinigi' na rikuesta debi na u mahanåogui guatu as ewabol.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp yan i put håfa na suhetu: Rikuestan i Dångkulun Printa put i Masumåria na CCDF State Plan.

I kopian i mapropoponi na CNMI CCDF State Plan siempri managuaha para "download" gi Måyu 11, 2024 ginen i website inadahin påtgun gi childcare.gov.mp.

Todu i tinigi' upiñon siha debi na u marisibi ginen i Inadahin Påtgun yan Dibelopmentun Fondu gi osino åntis di Huniu 15, 2024 yan para u rinisibi as: Maribel Loste, Direktot CCDF. I tinigi' upiñon siha siña ma'intrega hålum gi Atministrasión CCDF, Building Bldg. No. 1344 Ascension Ct. Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 osino email guatu gi mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp

Arongorong
Mwiischil Progróómal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
reel State Plan FFY2025 ngáli 2027

Arongorong yeel nge isiis bwe Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Sóóbw me Kko (DCCA) Progróómal Child Care me Development Fund (CCDF) re ayoora arongorong ngáliir toulap reel igha rebwe ayoora yoongáli ngáli kkomunidóód bwe rebwe ayoora ischil kkapas wóól peiráághil alillisil child care faal CNMI CCDF State Plan ngáli FFY2025-2027.

Re ghal faingiir alongeer schóó kka re mwuschel rebwe tuutá llól mwiisch rebwe isiisilong aar ischil kkapas ngare apasa milikka e súllúngáli ppwommwol State Plan. E amwirimwiritiw ráál, oora, me lugóótil Mwiischil Toulap.

Ráál	Lugóót	Oora
May 31, 2024	Kagman Community Center, Seipél	530pm ngáli 730pm
June 11, 2024	Tinian Public Library	530pm ngáli 730pm
June 13, 2024	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall	530pm ngáli 730pm
June 14, 2024	Multi Purpose Center, Suupi, Seipél	530pm ngáli 730pm

Ebwe lo schóól atéétéélil kkapas reel sign language reel alongal Mwiischil toulap. Rebwe ayoorai ngalugh ischil summary iye e ssór tomwógh ischil reel mille CNMI SSDF State Plan ngare u ayoora tingór llól isch limoow ráál mmwalil mwiisch. Alongal tingór llól isch ebwe isiis ngáli ewabol.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp fengál wóól subject line bwe: Request for Large Print of Summary of CCDF State Plan.

Eyoor pappidil ppwommwol CNMI CCDF State Plan emmwel ubwe download-li wóól Ghúúw (Móózo) 11, 2024 reel aar childcare wedsite me childcare.gov.mp.

Alongal ischil kkapas rebwe bwughi sángi Child Care me Development Fund wóól ngare mmwalil Alimaté (Unnyo) 15, 2024 me ebwe isiis ngáli: Maribel Loste, CCDF Director. Ebwe isiisiló ischil kkapas ngáli CCDF Administration Building GLDG. No. 1344 Ascension Ct. Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 ngare email-li ló mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp

/s/_____
Maribel Loste
CCDF Director

/s/_____
Francisco M. Rabauliman
DCCA Secretary

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 97

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

RFK Jr.'s old brain worm tale evokes McCain smear

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. just got McCained.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that the independent candidate for president had some health issues in recent years, including an abnormality caused by a worm that entered his brain and eventually died.

Kennedy revealed this info as part of a 2012 deposition during his divorce from second wife Mary Richardson Kennedy.

The Times didn't stop there: It reported that Kennedy suffered from mercury poisoning at about the same time, which can lead to memory loss. Kennedy told the paper he has recovered from the memory loss and brain fogginess and that the parasite did not require treatment.

If this sounds familiar, it should. In the 2000 election, Sen. John McCain was coming up fast on George W. Bush. He was a respected member of Congress and a war hero to boot. And he was stealing Bush's thunder.

Enter Karl Rove, the man who would become Bush's deputy chief of staff.

As The Nation reported in 2014, Rove was working for Bush, and his campaign "featured a widely disseminated rumor that John McCain, tortured as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, had betrayed his country under interrogation and been rendered mentally unfit for office."

The smear, that being tortured in a POW camp had affected his mental health, dogged McCain on the campaign trail.

That's how the swamp deals with spoilers.

The Times goes on to report on RFK Jr.'s experience with atrial fibrillation, an irregular heartbeat. He told the Times it has been more than a decade since he experienced the condition and said he believes he no longer suffers from it.

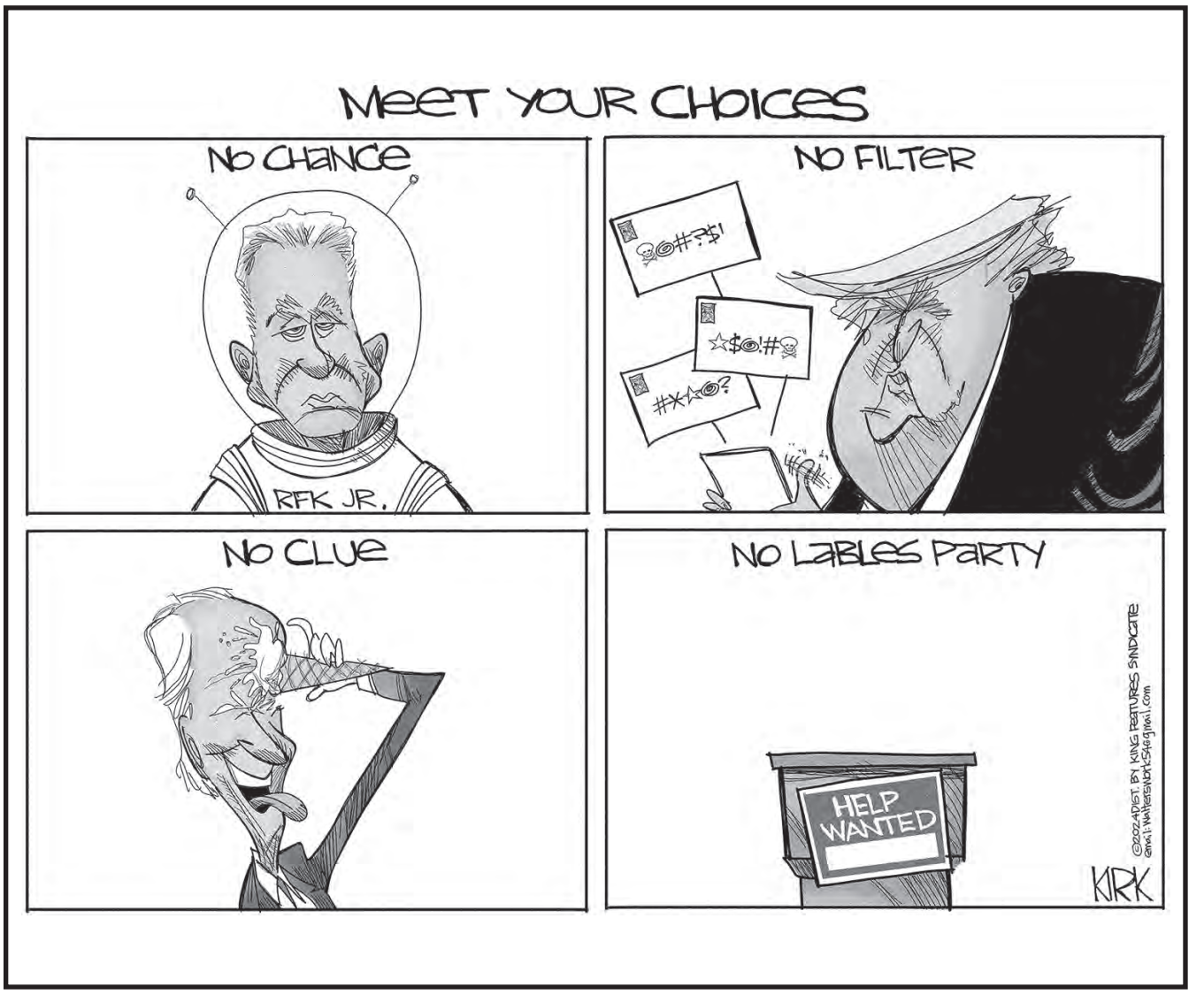
"The issue was resolved more than 10 years ago and he is in robust physical and mental health. Questioning Mr. Kennedy's health is a hilarious suggestion, given his competition," Stefanie Spear, a spokesperson for Kennedy's campaign said in a statement to CNN.

There you have it: the competition. President Joe Biden is 81 and keeps racking up instances of flubbing words and stumbling on stairs and stages. Former President Donald Trump, 77, has been roundly mocked for appearing to fall asleep during parts of his hush money trial in New York.

At 70, Kennedy's shirtless workout videos have gone viral. What better way to undermine his image than plant the seed of worm-induced mental issues that could affect his performance in the White House?

Kennedy has dug in his heels as a third-party challenger to Biden and Trump. As The Hill reported, he has been averaging close to 10% in polling from The Hill/Decision Desk HQ, making him the highest polling third-party candidate in a presidential race since businessman Ross Perot in 1992. It's

See RFK on Page 7



End the war with Gen Z over who had it worse

By ALLSION SCHRAGER
Bloomberg Opinion

Allison Schrager is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering economics. A senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, she is author of "An Economist Walks Into a Brothel: And Other Unexpected Places to Understand Risk."

America has had a generation gap from the very start, and generational warfare for almost as long. But in at least one area, I believe a cease-fire is possible: We can end the war over which generation had it worse when they were young.

With soaring rents, high mortgage rates, student loans and a ballooning national debt to pay for entitlements, Generation Z and many younger millennials say they are getting a raw deal. Older Americans, meanwhile, are sick of all the whining from entitled young coworkers who they see as slackers.

The truth is somewhere in between. It is getting a little easier for young people, at least economically. But that does not take away from the fact that getting a start in the world is hard. All sides have a point — and we'd be better off if we had more realistic expectations for ourselves and empathy for each other.

In that spirit, and speaking as a very late Gen Xer — so late I don't feel part of any generation — here goes: If you grew up watching shows such as Friends, you might expect your 20s to be the best time of your life. You get a fun job in the city, a great apartment and close friends. And it's true that the first years of adulthood, free from responsibility and surrounded by your peers, is a special time. It is also a challenging time — and always has been.

It's not easy to establish a career. You don't have any skills yet — except if you're on the social media team, which wields a scary amount of power in every organization — so you are expendable, and must work many hours doing thankless tasks. But this is how you get good at what you do. It's how you learn an industry and make connections. I am not going to argue that it is a pleasant process, though technology has made it a little easier.

Young people complain about this state of affairs not only because it is genuinely unpleasant but because they have an exaggerated sense of their own worth. This is not unique to any generation. There always have been, and always will be, people who declare that they are opting out for an easier, lower paid career. Technology may give these people have a louder megaphone, but that doesn't necessarily mean there are more of them, or that they are representative of their generation. Sorting out who will be successful is never a fun process.

Being young usually means you also have no money. Even if you are lucky enough to have a professional-track job, you might be in an expensive city and have to live in a small apartment or a sketchy neighborhood or with bad roommates. (Of course, you could decide to forgo adulthood and live with your parents, but that comes with its own set of problems.)

It is also true that Gen Z faces difficulties other generations didn't. The US economy and culture put a premium on living in a big metropolitan area, at least when you are learning a trade and finding a partner. This may explain why living in big cities has become more common despite their higher cost of housing. Wages are also higher in cities, though not high enough.

At the same time, it's worth pointing out that earlier generations weren't living like the characters on Friends, either. Young adulthood has always been a financial struggle. In fact, despite today's high rents, today's young people have more savings than their predecessors. And while they have more student-loan debt, they also have higher and faster-growing wages—because they had more education.

Also worth remembering: Living in a city is fun and makes a prolonged adolescence possible. Those good times may be why older people tend to assume young people have it easy. They tend to forget that people in their 20s are free from many of the responsibilities and hardships of adulthood, but also have anxieties about their careers, relationships and money. Romanticizing this time of life does no one any favors.

I spent most of my 20s convinced I should be having more fun than I was, and feeling utterly inadequate as a result. I can't imagine how much worse it must be today, with social media constantly reminding you how much better your life should be.

So my advice and wish for the kids today—I use the phrase affectionately!—is this: Every phase of life has its pleasures and its challenges. I have confidence you will make it through these anxious years. And I hope that you will grow old enough to complain about the ingratitude and laziness of the younger generation.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America wasn't made for walking, and it's killing us

By JUSTIN FOX
Bloomberg Opinion

Justin Fox is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering business, economics and other topics involving charts. A former editorial director of the Harvard Business Review, he is author of "The Myth of the Rational Market."

About a year and a half ago, I became one of Those People who track how many steps they walk each day. I know there's nothing magical about the daily 10,000-step target, but it's a fun little pastime, made more fun by the fact that I surpass 10,000 most days without really trying.

That's because I live in Manhattan, with a dog to walk, errands to run and a commute that usually consists either of a subway ride and then a walk across Central Park, or a bike ride mostly through the park during which I occasionally go slowly enough that the steps app on my phone thinks I'm running. (It also doesn't hurt that the nearest coffee here at Bloomberg's New York headquarters is half a block away from my desk.)

Away from home, hitting 10,000 has proved much harder. There have been exceptions, such as visits to San Francisco and Mexico City during which I walked even more than I usually do in New York. But stays in the Vermont and California countryside, the suburbs of San Francisco and Washington, and the islands of Hawaii and Oahu all dragged down my average (10,506 steps a day since I started; 11,300 over the past year).

It's not just me. Most Americans don't live in places like Manhattan, and they walk a lot fewer than 10,000 steps a day. A study published in 2010 found that US adults averaged 5,117 steps daily and that this was lower than the averages found in similar studies in Switzerland, western Australia and Japan. Another study from 2017, using smartphone activity data from 111 countries and territories, found that US participants averaged 4,774 steps a day, which was below the global average of 4,961 although not by much (Hong Kong was tops at 6,880, while El Salvador came in last at 3,370).

This is definitely a lot less than people used to walk. The pre-Industrial Revolution norm has been estimated at 10,000 to 18,000 steps a day, and data from the US Census Bureau hint that Americans used to get in a lot more steps six decades ago, with the share of workers who commute primarily by walking falling sharply since 1960 (the percentage getting to work by public transportation, which often involves a lot of walking, is also way down, from 12.1% in 1960 to 3.2% in 2022).

Statistics on walking and biking to school, from the Federal Highway Administration's National Household Travel Survey, are spottier and less reliable but also show a big decline since 1969, when 42% of schoolchildren mostly biked or walked, and a mostly flat trajectory over the past couple of decades, with 10.4% biking or walking in 2017. A comparative study published in 2020 found the US to be among the countries where kids were least likely to use "active transportation" — walking, bikes, scooters, etc. — to get to school, and that was using a different US survey that found a much higher percentage than the NHTS. (I've included countries with data that seemed most comparable to that of the US in the chart; there are many more in the study.)

The explanation for the decline in walking since the 1960s and Americans' below-average international showing seems clear: It's cars. During the second half of the 20th century, almost all new development in the US was oriented around automobiles, and the US became one of the most car-dependent countries on the planet. If you live or work or both in a place built for cars, walking more than short distances tends to be something you have to set out to do intentionally. It's exercise, not a way of getting from point A to point B. So most people do less of it, with likely implications for obesity rates, life expectancy and other measures that have been headed in the wrong direction in the US in recent years.

A key metric tracked in that 2017 smartphone-based study of walking around the world was what the authors, a group of Stanford University computer science, engineering and medical researchers, called "activity inequality." This measured how widely dispersed the number of daily steps was among a population, and was according to the authors "a better predictor of obesity prevalence in the population than average activity volume." Some people will exercise a lot no matter where they are, but places where even those at the low end of the walking scale get in a respectable number of steps are likely to have better health outcomes.

The US had the fifth-highest activity inequality among 46 countries for which this was measured, behind only Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada and Egypt (Hong Kong's was lowest). Among US cities for which the study had data, activity inequality was highest in Arlington, Texas; Tucson, Arizona; Fort Worth, Texas; Virginia Beach, Virginia; and Cleveland; it was lowest in New York, Boston, Jersey City, Washington and San Francisco.

Over the past few decades these low-activity-inequality cities all experienced revivals, returning to growth after decades of decline. As the first chart above shows, the share of people walking or biking to work also rose slightly in the 2000s (as did the public transportation share).

The urban revival began to fizzle in the mid-2010s. One reason was simple demographics, as members of the gigantic millennial generation began to age out of their urbanophile 20s and into their more suburb-oriented 30s. But it was also that cities and walkable older suburbs failed to add much new housing even as demand revived, while communities on the fringes of metropolitan areas continued to build: 78% of US housing supply growth from 1980 to 2018 was in low-density suburbs.

Then came the Covid-19 pandemic, which temporarily shut down many of the activities that make cities attractive and brought what seems to be a permanent shift toward remote work. This has brought declines for all modes of commuting, with public transportation experiencing the steepest drop-off and the percentage declines for biking and walking roughly similar to those for cars. Big cities also lost population while the suburban fringe and some scenic rural areas and small towns gained.

Some remote workers are using the time they save by not commuting to exercise more. Transportation data provider StreetLight found, for example, that average daily biking trips in the US rose 37% from 2019 to 2022 even as bike commuting fell. But StreetLight also registered a 36% decline in average daily walking trips over that period. Overall, I would assume that the decline in commuting and the population shift from cities has resulted in Americans getting even less physical activity than they did before the pandemic, with activity inequality rising. Thanks to the arrival of weight-loss drugs Wegovy and Ozempic, this may not translate into rising obesity, but it still seems bad.

Turning around the activity decline would probably require another urban revival, which seems like a tough sell right now. When it comes to where people choose to live, I think many in the US exhibit what Marxists call false consciousness—they've been so brainwashed by car culture that they don't understand they'd be healthier and happier living someplace where they didn't always need to drive. But it's also true that the places in the US that are most friendly to pedestrians often aren't so friendly in other ways. Housing can be extremely expensive, the schools often underperform, there are issues with crime and public disorder. Making Americans more active and healthy may require better urban governance.

Mother's Day is everyday year round

Tinian students Mother's Day poems 2018

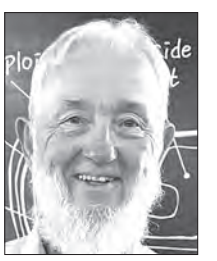
After I retired, I conducted a yearlong series of poetry workshops in the 6th grade English classes of Brenda Safer at Tinian Elementary School. Students wrote poems about holidays, St. Valentine's Day, and Mother's Day. The three-line poems have been placed in one line with a slash to indicate a break and save space. Enjoy these wonderful heartfelt poems from these Tinian students. Happy Mother's Day.

Si nana/ importante/ hu guiya hao - Marisa King
Hugging mother/ with love/ Mother's Day - Ricky Cruz
Mothers/ sleeping/ very sweet - John Christian Guintu
Hu guaiya/ nanahu/ todu I tiempo - Victoria Sablan
Mom/ beautiful/ inside and out - Kiran Shrestha
Nana/ sen bonita/ha'anin man nana-AustinJohn Barcinas Sablan
Wonderful caring/ sweet lovely/ mother - Karen Lagunay
Mother/ sweet as sugar/ ants come – Clarence Rodriguez
Mother's Day/ hu guaya hao/ nanan biha – John Eric B.
Mom's endless love/beautiful benevolent/there for us - Rose Cruz
Beautiful like roses/ strong like steel/ mother - Ryusei Desebel
My mom/ gives me/ warm hugs – Yna Agbayani
Mother /raised me/ thankful – John Victor Ancheta
Nanay/ mahal kita/ everyday - Allen Morilla
Nanay/ mahal kita/ never forget that – Vince Levi C.
Mom/ loving me/ all day – Bermar Lopez
Happy flower/ sad cloud/ beautiful Mom- Danivid Cing
Mama nako/guwapa kanunay/gihiguma nako siya - Beverly S.F.G.
Shines like a diamond/wonderful rose/Mother's Day-Jeralde Aldan
Courage/ Mom gives it /to us – Louis Yin
Always caring/ giver of life/ Mom – Sinalu Ray Cepeda
Smiling star/ happy as a rainbow/ Mom – Isa King Aldan
Mother/ though she lectures me/ wise – Isshori Gurung
Mom/ without her/ no love/ - Elvie Dominguiano
I want to skydive/she says no/overprotective Mom- David Mendiola
My Mom/ loves me/ always – Tara Diaz Pascua
Makes us stick together/our family center/ Mom - Tasi Long
Mom/ so sweet/ sugary chocolate – Axl M. Ong
Mom/ hardworking/ thankyou – Jared King
Mother's love/ all I need/ family – Vincent Manibusan
Dad/ loses things/ Mom finds them – Jeremiah Hofschneider
Kindness/mother's endless love/always there for us - Dilasa Karki
Thank mother/for teaching us/for being there - Yoshiko Crisostimo
Our mom/ very strong/ fights for us – Ishalaine N. Khan
Mother/ cuddles me/ from fear – John Mark Palilio
Mom and I/totally bonding /worth it - Ashley Gwyneth Jumao-as
Motherly love/worldwide/much sweetness – Marina Joyce Chant
Angel/ my light/ Mom – Dhan Miguel N. Robles
Mother/ kisses me/ everyday – Victor Sablan
Mama/ stay with me/ I need you – Savannah Sandbergen
Mom/ brought me/ to life – Eddawn Loriel Labador

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



Mom/ loves me/ 'til the end- Su Hyeon
Mother gone/not forgotten/five Cesarean sections

RFK

From page 6

not close to Biden or Trump, but it's enough to put the fear of losing voters in their respective campaigns.

Polls are divided over who Kennedy could hurt more, which makes him a threat to both candidates. The Rovian reveal of Kennedy's past medical issues may hurt him, or not.

Theoretically, our nation embodies freedom of choice, and our leaders hail this ideal. Just not when it comes to elections, and not when the choice is more than two.

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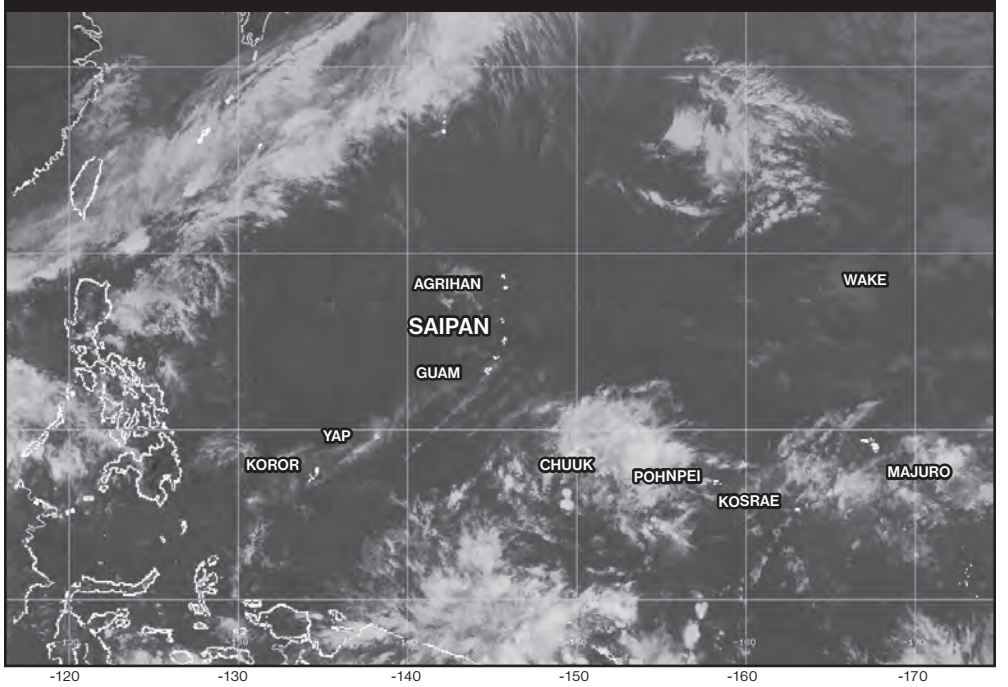
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:58 AM TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows partly cloudy skies over Guam, with an area of increased cloud cover between Rota and Tinian this morning. Showers are still spotty from Guam to Saipan, and increasing to scattered near Alamagan. Latest altimetry data indicating seas of 4 to 6 feet in the coastal waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Yap	Sunny	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Kosrae	Cloudy	87° / 85°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 78°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:21 AM	11:59 AM
Thursday	-	1:00 AM	12:48 PM
Friday	-	1:36 AM	1:35 PM
Saturday	-	2:09 AM	2:20 PM
Sunday	-	2:42 AM	3:06 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Beijing	Fair	90° / 63°
Hong Kong	Fair	83° / 72°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 71°
London	Partly Cloudy	57° / 39°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 60°
Manila	Fair	97° / 78°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	59° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	63° /49°
Osaka	Sunny	76° / 51°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Busan	Sunny	75° / 52°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 64°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	86° / 61°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 52°
Seoul	Sunny	77° / 50°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	69° / 57°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 51°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
2:39 AM	Low Tide	1.83
8:24 AM	High Tide	1.33
12:00 PM	Low Tide	1.51
7:39 PM	High Tide	0.32

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Guam Chamber hosts centennial jubilee

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Chamber of Commerce board of directors, past and current senators, and Hall of Fame Laureate pose in the legislative resolution presentation during the Guam Chamber's centennial jubilee on May 4, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—In honor of its 100th anniversary, the Guam Chamber of Commerce hosted its centennial jubilee on May 4, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

During the event, the Guam Chamber honored the 2024 Guam Business Hall of Fame Laureate, Robert "Bob" Salas, and recognized 44 member companies that are celebrating milestone anniversaries ranging from 20 to 110 years.

» Marks 100 years of business progress

Each May, the Guam Chamber holds a gala event to celebrate its anniversary and progress made in business from the previous year. The centennial jubilee was inspired by The Bee Gees, and the more than 460 guests came dressed in retro and formal gala wear.

Ernie Galito, chairman of the board of directors for the Guam Chamber of Commerce, said, "The Guam Chamber of Commerce has been an unwavering pillar of support for our island's business community for a century. We continue to celebrate a hundred years of history on Guam and the enduring spirit of enterprise and innovation that defines our people."

Galito added, "Our centennial celebration allows us to reflect on the visionary founders who laid the cornerstone of our Chamber. Their courage and foresight set the stage for Guam's economic journey, a legacy that echoes in every success story and thriving business that calls Guam home. Today, each of our members plays an integral part in shaping Guam's economic and social landscape."

Bob Salas named Business Laureate for 2024

The Guam Chamber announced this year's Business Laureate during the event's program. Robert "Bob" Salas, founder of Landscape Management Systems was named to the Chamber's Guam Business Hall of Fame. LMS, founded in 1994, is a full-service program management company including engineering and construction services adding to his landscape services portfolio. Before establishing LMS, Salas was a private developer and contractor for property development projects in Guam, such as the Leo Palace Resort, Mangilao Golf Course, Fish-Eye Observatory, and Cocos Island. As a small landscaping business, the company quickly earned a reputation for showcasing native plant designs in the company's artistic landscaping projects. LMS developed and designed the annual GVB Holiday Illumination Village in Tumon for several years, making it both a community and tourist attraction during the holiday season.

Salas' numerous awards and recognitions include the Guam Contractor Association Contractor of Year (2017), Excellence in Construction Awards (every year for the past decade), National Safety Excellence Award from Associated Builders and Contractors (2016), and the Guam Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Small Business Award (2013).

Guam Chamber announces vision for 2024 and beyond

During the chairman's remarks, Galito announced the Guam Chamber's mission for the year ahead, board members and members will be raising issues and solutions to improve Guam's economy, advocating for government efficiency and streamlining the permitting process, and transitioning the Business Privilege Tax to a Sales Tax. The Chamber will also support legislation and programs that tackle socio-economic issues, such as public education, healthcare, housing inventory, crime, and workforce development. Lastly, members will promote responsible development and the balancing of cultural, ecological, environmental, and historic preservation concerns with military construction projects.

Galito shared," We stand at the precipice of a future brimming with challenges and possibilities. We can ensure Guam's continued economic prosperity by fostering collaboration, harnessing new technologies, and advocating for a thriving business environment. The Guam Chamber of Commerce has the perfect position to lead this charge for the next 100 years, and we welcome new and old partners to join us and take an active role in making Guam the best place to live and do business."

The Chamber also announced that centennial celebrations will continue later this year with plans to host a new event, The Chamber Games and BBQ Competition on September 21 at the LeoPalace Resort, the Guam Chamber of Commerce Museum Exhibit 100 Years of Partners in Progress in December, and the Micronesian Economic Forum at the Hyatt Regency Guam on Dec. 3, 4, and 5. The Chamber also plans to curate the past century in a Guam Chamber of Commerce 100-Year Time Capsule and publish the Guam Chamber of Commerce 100 Years in Retrospect hardcover coffee table book.

Thank you to Centennial Jubilee sponsors

The Chamber expressed its heartfelt gratitude to its sponsors, especially its Centurion Plus Sponsors, Atkins Kroll Chevrolet and First Hawaiian Bank. The Chamber also thanks Centurion Sponsor SPPC and the event sponsors who made the Jubilee possible: B.N.B; Citadel Pacific. Ltd; Triple J Enterprises, Inc.; Bank of Guam; Black Construction Corporation; Pacific Federal Management; Ada's Trust & Investment, Inc.; Docomo Pacific; Coast 360 Federal Credit Union; and Jones and Guerrero Company, Inc. ***(PR)***

Nation

Cohen: Trump intimately involved in all aspects of hush money scheme

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump was intimately involved with all aspects of a scheme to stifle stories about sex that threatened to torpedo his 2016 campaign, his former lawyer said Monday in matter-of-fact testimony that went to the heart of the former president's hush money trial.

"Everything required Mr. Trump's sign-off," said Michael Cohen, Trump's fixer-turned-foe and the prosecution's star witness in a case now entering its final, pivotal stretch.

In hours of highly anticipated testimony, Cohen placed Trump at the center of the hush money plot, saying the then-candidate had promised to reimburse the lawyer for the money he fronted and was constantly updated about behind-the-scenes efforts to bury stories feared to be harmful to the campaign.

"We need to stop this from getting out," Cohen quoted Trump as telling him in reference to porn actor Stormy Daniels' account of a sexual encounter with Trump a decade earlier. The then-candidate was especially anxious about how the story would affect his standing with female voters.

A similar episode occurred when Cohen alerted Trump that a Playboy model was alleging that she and Trump had an extramarital affair. "Make sure it doesn't get released," was Cohen's message to Trump, the lawyer said. The woman, Karen McDougal, was paid $150,000 in an arrangement that was made after Trump received a "complete and total update on everything that transpired."

"What I was doing, I was doing at the direction of and benefit of Mr. Trump," Cohen testified.

Trump has pleaded not guilty and denied having sexual encounters with the two women.

Cohen is by far the prosecution's most important witness, and though his testimony lacked the electricity that defined Daniels' turn on the stand last week, he nonetheless linked Trump directly to the payments and helped illuminate some of the drier evidence such as text messages and phone logs that jurors had previously seen.

The testimony of a witness with such intimate knowledge of Trump's activities could heighten the legal exposure of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee if jurors deem him sufficiently credible. But prosecutors' reliance on a witness with such a checkered past—Cohen pleaded guilty to federal charges related to the payments—also carries sizable risks with a jury and could be a boon to Trump politically as he fundraises off his legal woes and paints the case as the product of a tainted criminal justice system.

The men, once so close that Cohen boasted that he would "take a bullet" for Trump, had no visible interaction inside the courtroom. The sedate atmosphere was a marked contrast from their last courtroom faceoff, when Trump walked out of the courtroom in October after his lawyer finished questioning Cohen during his civil fraud trial.

Collapsed Baltimore bridge span comes down with boom after crews set off chain of explosives

BALTIMORE (AP)—Crews set off a chain of carefully placed explosives Monday to break down the largest remaining span of the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, and with a boom and a splash, the mangled steel trusses came crashing down into the river below.

The explosives flashed orange and let off plumes of black smoke upon detonation. The longest trusses toppled away from the grounded Dali container ship and slid off its bow, sending a wall of water splashing back toward the ship.

It marked a major step in freeing the Dali, which has been stuck among the wreckage since it lost power and crashed into one of the bridge's support columns shortly after leaving Baltimore on March 26.

The collapse killed six construction workers and halted most maritime traffic through Baltimore's busy port. The controlled demolition will allow the Dali to be refloated and restore traffic through the port, which will provide relief for thousands of longshoremen, truckers and small business owners who have seen their jobs impacted by the closure.

Officials said the detonation went as planned. They said the next step in the dynamic cleanup process is to assess the few remaining trusses on the Dali's bow and make sure none of the underwater wreckage is preventing the ship from being refloated and moved.

"It's a lot like peeling back an onion," said Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Officials expect to refloat the ship within the next few days. Then three or four tugboats will guide it to a nearby terminal at the port. It will likely remain there for a several weeks and undergo temporary repairs before being moved to a shipyard for more substantial repairs.

"This was a very big milestone for our progression forward," Col. Estee Pinchasin, Baltimore District Commander for the Army Corps of Engineers, said in the immediate aftermath of the demolition. She said crews don't anticipate having to use any more explosives.

The Dali's crew remained on board the ship during the detonation, and no injuries or problems were reported, said Capt. David O'Connell, commander of the Port of Baltimore.

The crew members haven't been allowed to leave the grounded vessel since the disaster. Officials said they've been busy maintaining the ship and assisting investigators. Of the crew members, 20 are from India and one is Sri Lankan.

Engineers spent weeks preparing to use explosives to break down the span, which was an estimated 500 feet (152 meters) long and weighs up to 600 tons (544 metric tons). The demolition was postponed Sunday because of thunderstorms.

World

Russian assault opens new front, diverting Ukraine forces

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian troops were locked in intense battles with Ukrainian soldiers around the embattled town of Vovchansk in northeast Ukraine on Monday, pushing ahead with a ground offensive that opened a new front and put more pressure on overstretched Ukrainian forces.

Moscow's renewed northeast offensive, launched late last week, was the most significant border incursion since the full-scale invasion began.

In just two days, Moscow has captured from 100 to 125 square kilometers (38 to 47 square miles) that include at least seven villages, most of them already depopulated, according to two open source monitoring analysts.

AP

Ukrainian military medics of the 47th Brigade shift an injured comrade to a stretcher at the field hospital in Avdiivka direction, Donetsk region, Ukraine, Friday, May 10, 2024.

Vovchansk, among the largest towns in the area whose pre-war population of 17,000 had dwindled to just 2,500 before Russia renewed its ground assault last week, has emerged as a key focus of the pitched battles engulfing the Kharkiv region. By Monday, only 200 to 300 residents remained, said Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov, as Russian forces closed in from three sides.

Poorly built fortifications and long-term ammunition shortages enabled Russia's sweeping advance in the area since Friday, local officials and soldiers said. The Kremlin's forces were seeking to divert and distract Ukrainian troops across the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line until a big batch of new military aid for Kyiv from the U.S. and European partners arrives on the battlefield in the coming weeks and months, Ukrainian commanders and analysts said.

That makes this period a window of opportunity for Moscow and one of the most dangerous for Kyiv in the two-year war, they said. By intensifying offensive operations, Russia seeks to stretch Ukraine's forces thin and forge breakthroughs.

Russian forces claimed to have taken an additional 90 square kilometers (35 square miles), which has not been independently confirmed.

Opening a new front from two points along the border with the Russian region of Belgorod was the easiest tactic to pin down and divert Ukrainian forces from heavy battles raging in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Russia's most sought-after prize.

"The enemy identified the most geographically convenient place ... the state border line," said Yurii Federenko, commander of the ACHILLES battalion of the 92nd brigade. His unit was among others rotated into the northeast from the Donetsk region to stabilize the northeast front, he said.

He fears a similar front may be opened in the Sumy region, which also shares a border with Russia.

The string of villages captured along the contested gray zone, where enemy shelling precludes the building of fortifications, were also the easiest for Moscow's forces to nab. Their momentum will likely slow as they approach better fortified settlements, Ukrainian commanders said.

Misery deepens in Gaza's Rafah as Israeli troops press operation

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Aid workers struggled Monday to distribute dwindling food and other supplies to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by what Israel says is a limited military operation in Rafah, as the two main crossings near the southern Gaza city remained closed.

The United Nations' agency for Palestinian refugees said 360,000 Palestinians have fled Rafah over the past week, out of 1.3 million who were sheltering there before the operation began. Most had already fled fighting elsewhere during the seven-month war between Israel and Hamas.

Israel has portrayed Rafah as the last stronghold of the militant group, brushing off warnings from the United States and other allies that any major operation there would be catastrophic for civilians. Hamas has meanwhile regrouped and is battling Israeli forces in parts of Gaza that Israel bombarded and invaded earlier in the war.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said Monday that another 100,000 Palestinians have been displaced in northern Gaza following recent Israeli evacuation orders there. That would mean that around a fifth of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced over the past week.

Thirty-eight trucks of flour arrived through the western Erez Crossing, a second access point to northern Gaza, said Abeer Etefa, a spokeswoman for the U.N.'s World Food Program. Israel announced the crossing's opening Sunday.

But no food has entered the two main crossings in southern Gaza for the past week.

The Rafah crossing into Egypt has been closed since Israeli troops seized it a week ago. Fighting in Rafah city has made it impossible for aid groups to access the nearby Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, though Israel says it is allowing supply trucks to enter from its side.

Billboard collapses onto people in Mumbai, killing at least 14 but others may be trapped

NEW DELHI (AP)—A large billboard collapsed onto people during heavy rain and thunderstorms in India's western city of Mumbai, killing at least 14 and injuring 74 others, reports said.

A rescue operation was ongoing Tuesday morning, and it was unclear how many people may still be trapped.

The rains, accompanied by high winds, caused the 30-meters-tall (100-foot-tall) billboard to fall over a gas station in the suburb of Ghatkopar on Monday evening. At least 47 people were rescued late into the night.

Police are investigating the incident and say the billboard was illegally installed, officials told the Press Trust of India news agency.

The officials said 31 of the injured had been discharged from the hospital.

India has heavy rain and severe floods during the monsoon season between June and September that brings most of its annual rainfall. The rain is crucial for agriculture but often causes extensive damage.

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Life & Style

At Westminster dog show, a display of dogs and devotion

NEW YORK (AP)—Less than three years ago, Mary Ann and David Giordano were taking turns lying on the living room floor with their Afghan hound Frankie, hand-feeding the desperately ill dog anything she would eat.

She had developed severe kidney problems after contracting Lyme disease, despite being on medication meant to repel ticks that carry the bacteria that cause it. Veterinarians weren't sure she would survive.

Yet on Monday, Frankie was at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show, healthy and ready to compete. She would face off against over a dozen other Afghan hounds—including Zaida, the winner of last month's World Dog Show in Croatia—for a chance to advance to the next round of the United States' most prestigious canine event.

"It was really tough," Mary Ann Giordano said, her voice halting as she described Frankie's eight-month ordeal. "But she made it."

For all the pooch pageantry of Westminster—the coiffed poodles, the top-knotted toy dogs, the formality of dogs trotting around a ring—it's also an illustration of the bond people form with dogs, and what each will do for the other.

Monday marked the start of the traditional judging that leads to the best in show prize, to be awarded Tuesday night at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Selection of seven finalists began Monday night; each represents a group of breeds, such as hounds or herding dogs.

One is Louis, an Afghan hound that bested Zaida, Frankie, her littermate Belle and others to win the breed.

"This breed's supposed to be 'the king of dogs,' and he knows he is," handler and co-owner Alicia Jones said.

Other finalists include Sage, a miniature poodle who gave "100%" in the ring, as handler Kaz Hosaka put it; Mercedes, a big-winning German shepherd whose handler, Kent Boyles, led another German shepherd to a best in show trophy in 2017; and Comet, a shih tzu who took the top prize at last year's huge, televised American Kennel Club National Championship.

AP

Handler Willy Santiago competes with Afghan Hound Zaida during breed group judging at the 148th Westminster Kennel Club Dog show, Monday, May 13, 2024, at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York.

"He's just everything you would want in a shih tzu," co-owner, breeder and handler Luke Ehricht said after Comet won his breed Monday morning. With a flowing coat like a vanilla-and-caramel ice cream sundae that's melting onto the table, the dog looked up at his handler with the tender expression that's prized in the breed.

"He's a very sweet, loving dog" who knows when it's time to perform and when it's time to relax and play, said Ehricht, of Monclova, Ohio.

Three more finalists will be chosen Tuesday night before all seven vie for best in show.

The 2,500-plus first-round entrants range from tiny Yorkshire terriers to towering Irish wolfhounds. There are bushy old English sheepdogs, hairless Xoloitzcuintlis, massive mastiffs, lean Azawakhs and a newly added breed, the Lancashire heeler, represented Monday by a single contestant named Mando.

If he knew a lot was riding on his little shoulders, he didn't show it as he made a tail-wagging appearance in the televised semifinals. Nor did he appear to mind going it alone earlier in the first-round ring, where someone in the audience yelled, "Yay! History!"

"He just has a rock-star attitude," handler Jessica Plourde said afterward.

The show also was a first for Alfredo Delgado and Maria Davila, who had traveled from Juncos, Puerto Rico, with their French bulldog, Duncan.

K-pop fans around globe rally for climate and environment goals

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Fans of Korean pop bands around the world are increasingly channeling their millions-strong online community into climate and environmental activism, protesting business deals linked to coal power, urging K-pop entertainers to cut waste and raising awareness about climate-related issues.

Other climate activist groups have begun joining forces with Kpop4Climate, an environmental group founded in 2021 by K-pop fans Nurul Sarifah and Dayeon Lee. After Kpop4Climate petitioned South Korean automaker Hyundai Motor Co., it recently scrapped a deal linked to coal power plants in Indonesia.

The ability to quickly organize a large, dedicated group has made K-pop fans an increasingly influential lobby online as they participate in protests and promote causes that have included the Black Lives Matter movement. Politicians also have tried to tap into that power.

"I spotted how K-pop fans can be seen as a potential power," said Sarifah. "We think we can harness that power for climate change action."

In 2021, Korea Beyond Coal—a coalition of civic groups calling for South Korea to stop using coal power — teamed up with Kpop-4Climate in 2021 to raise awareness about plans for a coal-burning power plant.

The plant site near Maengbang Beach, the photo shoot location for album artwork for one of K-pop band BTS's hit songs, is a popular destination for the band's fans and a joint petition created by Kpop4Planet and Korea Beyond Coal got thousands of signatures.

"We realized Kpop4Climate has the experience of mobilizing and connecting people and sharing information using social media ... which is very helpful when it comes to climate campaigning," said Eujin Kim, a communications officer for Solutions for Our Climate, which is part of Korea Beyond Coal.

This famous brownie recipe comes with its own warning

DEAR ABBY: I have read that you have a sweet tooth. I do, too. That's why I'm interested in your recipe booklets, particularly if you have included dessert recipes. Which ones do you particularly love?

LOVES IT SWEET IN ANNAPOLIS, MD

DEAR LOVES: That's a tough question. It's hard to choose just one recipe because I do have a sweet tooth as well as "a bit" of an addiction to chocolate, which is more information than you asked for.

The following recipe is one I have enjoyed many times and also have made as gifts for friends. It yields 4 1/2 dozen brownies (depending upon how large one decides to portion them out), and they freeze well. Warning: The first time I tasted them, they triggered a binge. After consuming my third brownie, I was ashamed to go back to the dessert table, so I sneaked to the kitchen and begged for the recipe.

This recipe is included in my cookbooklet set, which, in addition to desserts, includes many other delicious crowd-pleasing recipes for entertaining. To order it, send your name and address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

If you are a serious chocolate lover, this recipe will make your toes curl, and that's a promise. I hope you will enjoy them as much as I have.

REGENCY BROWNIES
1 cup butter (2 sticks)
4 ounces bittersweet chocolate
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups chopped walnuts
1 teaspoon vanilla
FROSTING
1 cup heavy cream
8 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Line the bottom of an 18-by-12-by-2 (or 1)-inch baking pan with parchment paper and spray generously with butter-flavored cooking spray.

In the top of a double boiler, over medium heat, melt butter and 4 ounces chocolate. Reserve.

In a large bowl, beat sugar and eggs until fluffy. Add flour and salt, mixing well. Add chocolate mixture, blending thoroughly. Stir in nuts and vanilla.

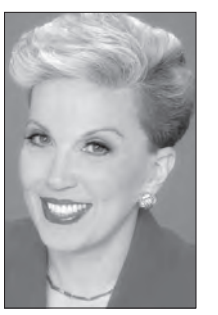
Pour into prepared baking pan. (Batter should be about 1/2-inch thick, not more.) Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until top is crisp and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool before pouring frosting over the top.

For the frosting: Bring cream to a boil, stirring constantly. Place chopped chocolate in a medium bowl; pour boiling cream over the chocolate and stir to blend well. Spread thin layer of warm frosting over top of brownies in pan. When cool, cut into 2-inch squares.

■■■

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I don't know how to respond when someone I know socially says they have just come from a political event for a candidate I detest and can't believe this person would favor. I don't discuss politics, so why anyone mentions something like this disturbs me. I don't want to say, "That's nice," and have them think I approve, but I don't want to show my disgust and provoke an argument. Any ideas?

DISCREET GUY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR GUY: If you prefer to avoid the subject of politics, just say, "What ELSE are you doing these days?" Smile when you say it and it shouldn't be offensive.

■■■

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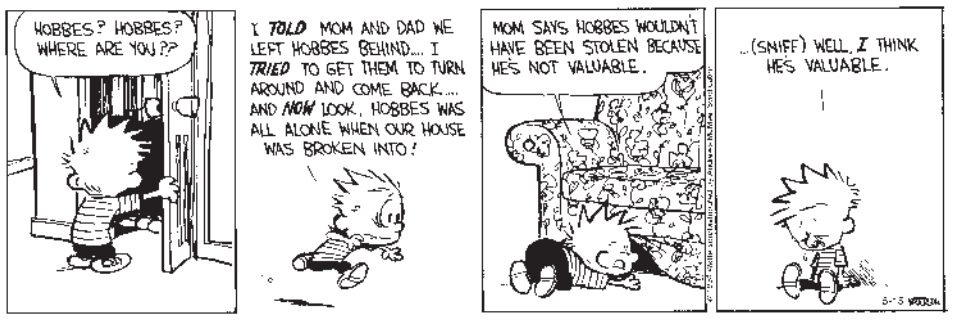
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOBBES? HOBBES? WHERE ARE YOU??
I TOLD MOM AND DAD WE LEFT HOBBES BEHIND.... I TRIED TO GET THEM TO TURN AROUND AND COME BACK.... AND NOW LOOK, HOBBES WAS ALL ALONE WHEN OUR HOUSE WAS BROKEN INTO!
MOM SAYS HOBBES WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STOLEN BECAUSE HE'S NOT VALUABLE.
..(SNIFF) WELL, I THINK HE'S VALUABLE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

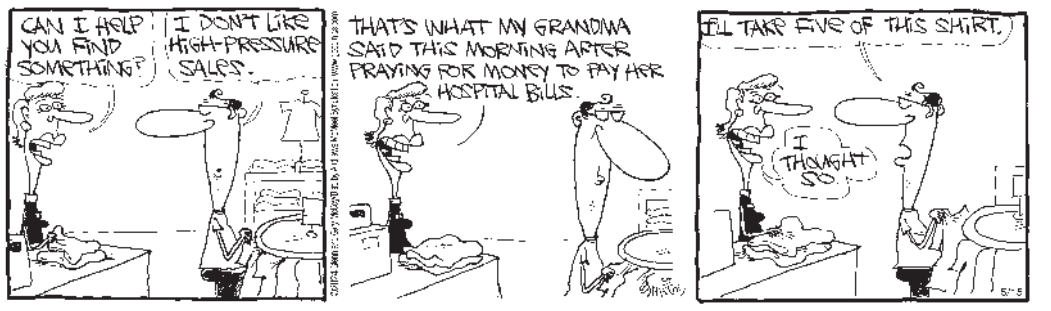
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

AI IS FILLING IN FOR ROB THIS WEEK.
WE WALK IN OPEN SPACES!
FOR HEALTH AND VIGOR!
DO YOU WORRY AI WILL STEAL YOUR WRITING JOB?
NOT AT ALL, MALE CHILD! AI IS WONDERFUL!
IT IS SIMPLY A TOOL! LIKE A WRENCH!
THEY COME IN PEACE, HUMANS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


CAN I HELP YOU FIND SOMETHING?
I DON'T LIKE HIGH-PRESSURE SALES.
THAT'S WHAT MY GRANDMA SAID THIS MORNING AFTER PRAYING FOR MONEY TO PAY HER HOSPITAL BILLS.
I'LL TAKE FIVE OF THIS SHIRT.
I THOUGHT SO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Opposite of peace
4 Mao — -tung
7 Confront
8 Kin of "Presto!"
10 Stick (to)
11 Golf's Palmer
13 Classic Melina Mercouri film
16 Born abroad?
17 Two-tone cookies
18 Tramcar filler
19 Failed at-bats
20 Pooch
21 Answers an Evite
23 Flooded
25 Erte's style
26 Texter's "As I see it"
27 "Unh-unh"
28 First half of an LP
30 Poke
33 Non-stop
36 Prison chief
37 "No more for me, thanks"
38 Long-legged shorebird
39 Tea time
40 Bond rating
41 Sound from a hot grill

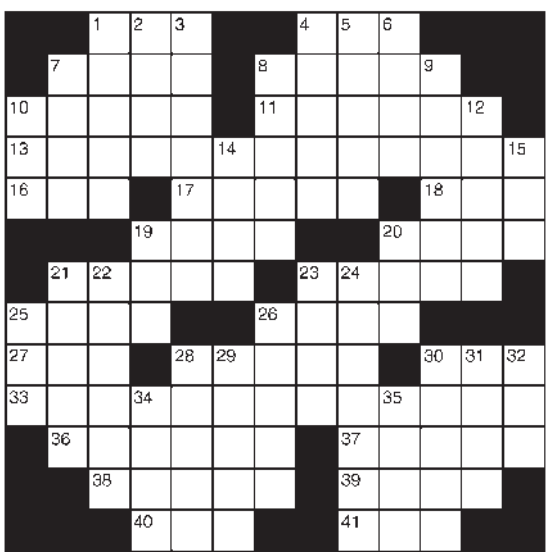
DOWN

1 Relinquish
2 Unwanted breakout
3 Assemble anew
4 Upper body
5 Cranial cavity
6 Carolina college
7 Run off
8 Wind indicators
9 Novelist Huxley
10 MSNBC rival
12 — Vader
14 Scraps
15 Still
19 Egg (Pref.)
20 Chairman of China
21 Kingdom
22 Unstressed vowel sounds
23 "So be it"
24 Hypotheticals
25 "CSI" evidence
26 Terse denial
28 Lebanon's neighbor
29 Capri, to a local
30 "Last Supper" figure
31 Antiquing aid
32 Automaton, for short
34 "— boy!"
35 Med. plan options

Solution time: 23 mins.

G	A	P	S	■	N	B	C	■	S	P	A	M
U	G	L	I	■	O	O	O	■	C	A	R	C
F	R	A	T	■	F	A	N	D	A	N	G	C
F	A	N	C	I	E	S	■	A	R	S	O	N
■	■	■	O	D	E	■	T	R	A	■	■	■
P	O	E	M	S	■	F	A	N	B	A	S	E
D	V	D	■	■	N	T	E	■	■	N	I	T
F	A	N	A	I	I	C	■	J	E	A	N	S
■	■	■	R	H	O	■	B	A	A	■	■	■
A	D	A	T	E	■	Γ	A	N	T	A	I	L
Γ	A	N	Γ	A	R	E	S	■	E	R	G	O
F	T	T	U	■	I	M	S	■	R	I	G	S
W	A	I	I	■	M	A	O	■	Y	A	Y	S

Yesterday's answer 5-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexandra Breckenridge, 42; Jamie-Lynn Sigler, 43; David Krumholtz, 46; Chazz Palminteri, 72.

Happy Birthday: Slow down, think before you act and do your best to pair reason with originality to achieve peace of mind, happiness and smooth sailing from one transition to the next this year. Your ability to visualize what you want and how to get it will help you overcome challenges. Choose to follow your heart, and find the path that helps fulfill your dreams. Your numbers are 4, 11, 23, 30, 34, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Base your decisions on facts, not hearsay. Be aware of hidden costs and false information. Be bold and ask direct questions -- or ask for proof before agreeing to something that can have lasting implications. Don't reveal personal information. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Discipline and control will be necessary when dealing with personal matters. Concentrate on your intent, and follow through instead of letting the changes and challenges others have weigh heavy on your conscience. Protect your emotional well-being, physical health and your credibility. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep a low profile. You'll accomplish your objective if you go about your business and focus on what matters to you. Refuse to let anyone thwart your plans. Gravitate toward people and organizations who share your beliefs and values. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Wrap your head around saving, and refuse to let anyone talk you into making a cash contribution. If you want to give back, donate possessions you no longer use. You can make a difference if you look for an original way to be helpful. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stand back, be an observer and use your intelligence to decide the best way to handle unstable situations. Invest in yourself, update your skills and ensure you understand the consequences and possibilities before you agree to something that requires blood, sweat and tears. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll gain insight if you pay attention to detail. Gather information, be resourceful and devise a safe plan; victory will follow. Opportunity is apparent, so don't miss out on it due to fear. Use your resources wisely, and you'll surpass your expectations. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look for opportunities to do something that picks you up and offers the emotional momentum to follow through with your intentions. A financial change that helps lower your overhead will also help you allocate what you save toward your dreams. Avoid emotional spending and costly relationships. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Unusual pastimes and people will grab your attention. Embrace experiences that touch your heart and make you think about what matters most. It's time for a shift that offers stability and a path that leads to professional security and a stellar reputation. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't stumble because you didn't feel it necessary to verify information. Be resourceful, question and adjust whatever doesn't feel right. Don't let pressure break you down when it is an indicator to be on your toes. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Get out and gain experience. Interact, listen, ask questions and set aside time to ponder over your options. Refuse to let domestic situations wear you down. Reach out to people who assimilate to your standards. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* One step at a time. Think matters through and act when you have a plan and a clear view of what you want. Only agree to someone else's plan if it takes you to your destination of choice. It's impossible to please everyone. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do whatever it takes to educate, understand and transform what dissatisfies you. Focus on doing what's best for you and taking better care of yourself and what and who is important to you. A firm commitment will put your mind at ease. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are possessive, resistant and aware. You are influential and curious.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	7	4				1
			3				4	
		1	6					9
		6			5			4
					7			
9					8	6		7
8		5		9			7	
	4						5	
	2		5	7	3		8	

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	9	7	4	5	3	8	1	2
3	5	1	8	2	6	9	4	7
2	8	4	7	1	9	6	5	3
4	7	5	6	9	2	3	8	1
9	3	8	1	4	5	7	2	6
1	6	2	3	8	7	4	9	5
7	1	9	5	3	4	2	6	8
8	4	3	2	6	1	5	7	9
5	2	6	9	7	8	1	3	4

Difficulty: ★★ 5/14

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ODD SHAPES Solution: 9 letters

S	E	C	I	T	R	E	V	O	C	T	A	G	O	N
S	U	R	O	R	R	I	M	O	D	E	L	C	U	N
M	C	B	E	N	O	C	E	N	I	L	U	M	E	O
A	E	U	M	S	Q	U	A	R	E	R	B	N	W	G
R	P	Ⓕ	L	O	T	B	S	R	V	E	O	I	S	A
G	O	C	Ⓞ	P	H	E	U	E	R	T	D	I	H	X
O	L	Y	O	Ⓡ	T	R	R	R	S	T	D	A	P	E
L	S	L	H	A	Ⓜ	U	E	T	H	E	L	R	A	H
E	C	I	C	P	G	T	R	T	E	D	O	E	R	E
L	A	N	S	I	E	U	G	E	A	G	M	A	G	P
L	L	D	F	M	C	N	S	E	R	E	T	Z	N	T
A	E	E	I	T	E	E	O	I	T	S	R	D	O	A
R	N	R	U	L	L	E	V	A	C	N	O	C	L	G
A	E	R	D	I	R	G	N	I	D	L	I	U	B	O
P	E	N	T	A	G	O	N	N	O	G	A	N	O	N

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Area, Building, Concave, Cone, Create, Cube, Curve, Cylinder, Edge, Figure, Form, Graph, Grid, Heart, Heptagon, Hexagon, Length, Line, Measure, Mirror, Model, Mold, Nonagon, Number, Oblong, Octagon, Parallelogram, Pentagon, Perimeter, Rhombus, Scalene, School, Sculpture, Side, Slope, Square, Star, Stone, Structure, Tiles, Vertices, Width

Yesterday's Answer: Brand

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

SGA scores 34, Thunder beat Mavs to even series 2-2

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) leaps to the basket to shoot as Dallas Mavericks' Daniel Gafford, left, defends in the first half in Game 4 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Monday, May 13, 2024, in Dallas.

DALLAS (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was making his normal share of shots through three quarters for Oklahoma City. Most of his teammates weren't, until it mattered most.

Gilgeous-Alexander scored 34 points and the Thunder overcame a Mavericks franchise playoff-record 13 blocks, rallying for a 100-96 victory Monday night to even their Western Conference semifinal series at 2-2.

Chet Holmgren and Lu Dort hit clutch 3-pointers late, and Jalen Williams drove for a dunk and a 94-91 lead with 1:29 remaining as Dallas players and coaches screamed for a double-dribble call.

Crew chief Zack Zarba said in a pool report that video confirmed officials were correct not calling the double-dribble, saying Williams never had control of the ball before grabbing it with two hands and starting his dribble.

The teams split a pair on each other's home court. Game 5 is Wednesday night in Oklahoma City.

"We just stuck to it," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "We just plugged away, took it possession by possession. And eventually the game turned for us."

The Mavericks' last chance to tie came with 10.1 seconds left when, trailing by two, Luka Doncic had two free throws. But the Dallas superstar missed the first, part of a dismal 12-for-23 effort by the Mavs from the line. Oklahoma City was 23 for 24.

"We've just got to work on our free throws," Doncic said. "We shot 52%. That's unacceptable."

Backed by one of their best defensive efforts of the season, the Mavs led by 14 early in the second half. But their offense disappeared from there, and the Thunder slowly came back.

Oklahoma City went in front for the first time since early in the game—and for good—on Holmgren's 3 for an 89-86 lead with 3:24 remaining.

P.J. Washington Jr. led Dallas in scoring again with 21 points, while Doncic had 18 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. Kyrie Irving had his second single-digit scoring game of the series with nine points.

Dort's clutch 3 came on a 3-of-10 shooting night from deep as he finished with 17 points. Holmgren had 18 points and nine rebounds.

Dereck Lively II and Derrick Jones Jr. had four blocks apiece for Dallas, each getting one in the final seconds of the first half to continue the defensive tone that had already been set.

That defensive struggle turned downright ugly in the third quarter, with the Thunder outscoring Dallas 22-15 to cut their deficit to four — the closest they had been since the middle of the first quarter. Oklahoma City shot 33% in the third to 25% for the Mavs.

Dallas wasn't much better in the fourth, shooting 42% and going just 1 of 5 from long range while the Thunder finally started seeing shots go in after shooting 34% through three quarters.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who along with Holmgren did most of the shot-making while their teammates struggled, got the Thunder even on a jumper with four minutes to go.

"There's nothing comfortable about playoff games," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. "I thought our ability just to endure the early punches, and just not able to get back in the game for a long time, our ability to endure that was big time. In the fourth, the offense turned for us."

Washington, making his first postseason appearance as a trade-deadline acquisition that was a defense-first move, had his third consecutive game with at least 20 points and added 12 rebounds.

Doncic had his fifth career playoff triple-double but again struggled with his shooting as he deals with a sprained right knee and a sore left ankle.

The five-time All-Star was 6 of 20 overall and 2 of 9 from long range, while the eight-time All-Star Irving hasn't put an offensive stamp on any of the first four games.

A pair that averaged just shy of 60 points per game in the regular season is at 37 in the series. Irving isn't even in the second-leading scorer. That's Washington.

"I think there's a focus on us," Doncic said. "When we both drive it, they collapse the paint, almost five guys. So I think that's been difficult for us. We've just got to find open teammates."

With Oklahoma City leading by three after two free throws from Holmgren in the final seconds, Gilgeous-Alexander fouled Washington before the Mavs could attempt a potential tying 3.

Washington missed the first free throw, dropping Dallas to 11 of 22, and was trying to miss the second—but it went in. Gilgeous-Alexander then put the Mavs away with two more free throws.

"This is probably the most meaningful game I've played in my career," the Oklahoma City star said.

CELTICS 109, CAVALIERS 102

CLEVELAND (AP)—Even when it's supposed to be somewhat easy, the Boston Celtics have a weird way of making things hard.

On Monday night, they nearly stumbled against an overmatched Cleveland team.

Jayson Tatum scored 33 points with LeBron James watching from a courtside seat and the Celtics beat the severely short-handed Cavaliers 109-102 in Game 4 to take a commanding 3-1 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Jaylen Brown added 27 for the Celtics, who can close out Cleveland with a win in Game 5 on Wednesday night at home.

"It took us a little while to get going, and stop ball watching and play some basketball," Brown said.

Game 6, if necessary, would be back at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse on Friday.

The Cavs got pushed to the brink of elimination with two top players in street clothes on the bench, as Donovan Mitchell (calf) and Jarrett Allen (ribs) sat out with injuries. Their status going forward is uncertain.

It was nothing new for a Cleveland team that dealt with injuries all season, but it was a big ask for the Cavs to try and survive without Mitchell, their All-Star guard who has carried the offensive load throughout the postseason, or Allen, their leading rebounder.

Still, the Cavs gave the top-seeded Celtics, who have shown a tendency to relax at the wrong time, all they could handle.

"They laid it all out there," Cleveland coach J.B. Bickerstaff said of his team. "They gave us everything that they had. They competed at a high level. They played the game properly. I'm proud of the guys, the way they went out and scrapped and competed and gave ourselves a chance."

Tatum had his second straight strong performance, adding 11 rebounds and five assists. Jrue Holiday had 16 points for Boston, which improved to 4-0 away from home in the postseason.

"There's no better feeling than winning a playoff game on the road," Tatum said. "Tough environment and the crowd was great. Now, it's time to go back to Boston and play well in front of our fans and give them something to cheer for."

Darius Garland scored 30 and Evan Mobley and Caris LeVert 19 apiece for the Cavs, who stayed connected with the Celtics and only trailed by 10 going into the fourth.

Boston went up 15 on a jumper by Brown, but Cleveland responded with a 10-2 run as Garland and Dean Wade made 3-pointers.

The Cavs were still within 102-97 when Max Strus missed a 3-pointer that would have put immense pressure on the Celtics, but Brown buried a 3—after colliding with official Tyler Ford—with 1:08 left to give Boston some breathing room.

Brown said Ford nearly cost the Celtics dearly by getting in his way.

"I thought he had an effect on the play," Brown said. "You've got to be more aware. But the shot went in, so it's a non-story."

The Cavs felt the discrepancy at the free-throw line—Boston attempted 24 free throws to Cleveland's seven—was a major element.

"That's ridiculous," Garland said. "It's tough to get just seven free throws. I know how many times I get hit and how many times my teammates get hit. It's tough."

James, who played 11 seasons in two separate stints for Cleveland, was back in his former home arena—a visit certain to drive speculation about where he might play next.

The NBA's career scoring leader can opt out of his contract with the Los Angeles Lakers this summer, and James has said he's not made any firm decisions.

The 39-year-old sat across from Boston's bench in between his wife, Savannah, and agent Rich Paul. James got a monstrous ovation from Cleveland's crowd when he was shown on the scoreboard during a timeout in the first quarter.

Despite dealing with a left knee injury for months, Mitchell averaged 29.6 points in the first 10 playoff games—scoring 50 in a Game 6 loss to Orlando.

He injured his calf in the waning moments of Cleveland's loss in Game 3 on Saturday and was added to the injury report as questionable on Sunday. Mitchell underwent round-the-clock treatment but didn't have enough time to heal.

The five-time All-Star didn't comment following the game, nodding politely on his way out of the locker room.

Allen sat out the seventh straight game with a painful injury the center sustained in the opening round.

With Holiday scoring seven straight points, the Celtics went ahead by 13 in the second quarter and appeared ready to run away from the Cavs.

But Cleveland stormed back as Strus, who has struggled with his outside shot throughout the playoffs, made consecutive 3-pointers in a 13-3 run that helped the Cavs close within 62-57 at halftime.

Boston's center Kristaps Porzingis missed his fifth straight game, but the Celtics were encouraged he was able to do some on-court work.

Varsho, Blue Jays beat Orioles in 10 innings

BALTIMORE (AP)—Daulton Varsho robbed a homer with his glove, hit one with his bat and then drove in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning with a groundball to lift the Toronto Blue Jays to a 3-2 win over the Baltimore Orioles on Monday night.

The Blue Jays overcame two home runs by Adley Rutschman, tying the game on Varsho's solo shot in the eighth and then prevailing in extra innings. Ernie Clement led off the 10th with a bunt single off Jacob Webb (0-2) that moved the automatic runner to third.

After a popout, Varsho's grounder was fielded by diving second baseman Jorge Mateo, but the Orioles—who had already turned three double plays to get out of significant jams — had no chance to pull off another.

Jordan Romano (1-0) pitched the ninth and 10th. The Orioles moved their automatic runner to third on Anthony Santander's leadoff flyout, but Colton Cowser struck out looking. Jordan Westburg drew a walk, and slumping center fielder Cedric Mullins hit a routine grounder on the first pitch to end it.

Bo Bichette had three hits and a walk for the Blue Jays.

AP

Baltimore Orioles' Cedric Mullins, left, is out at first against Toronto Blue Jays first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr., right, during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Monday, May 13, 2024, in Baltimore.

TIGERS 6, MARLINS 5

DETROIT (AP)—Spencer Torkelson hit a two-run home run to highlight a three-run outburst in the eighth inning as Detroit rallied for a win over Miami.

After Miami got a two-run homer from Otto Lopez in the top of the eighth to take a 5-3 lead, Wenceel Pérez doubled off Anthony Maldonado (0-1) with one out and scored on Andy Ibáñez's base hit. Matt Vierling struck out before Torkelson hit a 1-2 slider 446 feet over the Miami bullpen in left-center field.

The homer came one day after Torkelson, who hit 31 homers last year, got his first of the season in a 9-3 loss to the Houston Astros.

The Tigers won for the third time in 10 games, while Miami dropped to 2-8 in their last 10.

Alex Faedo (3-1) got the win despite allowing Lopez's third homer of the season in the top of the eighth. Jason Foley pitched a perfect ninth for his 10th save.

BRAVES 2, CUBS 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Zack Short made the most of his first start with Atlanta by breaking a scoreless tie with a run-scoring double in the sixth and the Braves spoiled another strong start by Chicago rookie Shota Imanaga to beat the Cubs 2-0.

Short, who filled in at third base while Austin Riley was held out with tightness in his left side, lined a pitch from right-hander Hayden Wesneski (2-2) into the right field corner to drive in Travis d'Arnaud, who doubled with two outs.

Ronald Acuña Jr. followed with a single to left field to drive in Short for a 2-0 lead.

Imanaga threw five scoreless innings, extending his team record to eight consecutive starts to begin his career without allowing more than two runs. Imanaga stranded two baserunners in the second and third innings and left the bases loaded in the fourth.

Imanaga had eight strikeouts and lowered his majors-leading ERA to 0.96 despite giving up seven hits with three walks.

RAYS 5, RED SOX 3

BOSTON (AP)—Amed Rosario hit a two-run triple during Tampa Bay's three-run first inning and the Rays beat Boston.

Rosario added an RBI double and Yandy Díaz had three hits for the Rays, who are in a stretch of 13 straight games vs rival AL East clubs.

Boston's Tyler O'Neill hit his 10th homer, a three-run shot. The Red Sox had won their last two games.

Rays starter Zach Eflin (3-4) gave up three runs on six hits in five innings. Their bullpen took over from there, with three relievers holding Boston to two singles.

PHILLIES 5, METS 4, 10 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—Bryson Stott hit a leadoff homer in the ninth against All-Star closer Edwin Díaz and delivered the tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the 10th inning as the MLB-leading Philadelphia beat the New York Mets.

The Phillies trailed 4-2 before Díaz gave up Stott's homer and hit Alec Bohm with a pitch with the bases loaded and two outs.

Bryce Harper, the automatic runner to start the 10th, took third on a wild pitch by Sean Reid-Foley (1-1) and scored easily on Stott's long fly out to right.

Orion Kerkering (1-0) threw a perfect ninth and José Alvarado earned his eighth save with a 1-2-3 ninth, stranding automatic runner DJ Stewart at second.

PIRATES 8, BREWERS 6

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Bryan Reynolds went 5 for 5 with a homer and two doubles, Mitch Keller threw six shutout innings and Pittsburgh defeated Milwaukee.

Pittsburgh's Jack Suwinski and Yasmani Grandal hit two-run homers.

Jake Bauers delivered his first career grand slam for the Brewers, who nearly came all the way back after trailing 7-2 in the eighth inning.

Milwaukee's rally began after an error by shortstop Oneil Cruz helped the Brewers load the bases with nobody out in the eighth. Bauers capitalized by sending a 3-2 sinker from Josh Fleming over the right-field wall.

Andruw Monasterio drew a one-out walk from Hunter Stratton to put the potential tying run on base. As William Contreras looked at a third strike for the second out, Monasterio stole second and advanced to third when Grandal's throw sailed into center field.

Stratton preserved Pittsburgh's lead by striking out Christian Yelich. Reynolds then provided some insurance by leading off the ninth with a 421-foot blast to center against Joel Payamps to cap his first career five-hit game.

ASTROS 9, ATHLETICS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Alex Bregman homered twice and had a season-high four RBIs to lead Houston to a win over Oakland.

Bregman homered off Oakland starter Ross Stripling (1-7) in the fourth inning, reminiscent of the homer he hit off Stripling in the 2018 All-Star Game. Bregman homered again in the seventh off Mitch Spence. Bregman entered Monday with just one homer in 144 at-bats this season but caught fire and had his sixth career multihomer game.

Bregman later added a double in the eighth that scored Trey Cabbage and Jeremy Peña to put Houston up 7-2. He entered Monday hitting .167 in May and .201 on the season.

GUARDIANS 7, RANGERS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—José Ramírez had a pair of two-run singles and reached base five times as the Cleveland beat Texas and sent the Rangers to their first four-game losing streak of the season.

Five Cleveland pitchers combined for the four-hit shutout of the defending World Series champions. The AL Central-leading Guardians have won 14 of their last 24 games.

Ramírez drove in two runs with singles in the eighth and ninth innings. He walked twice and also reached on a fielding error by Corey Seager in the first inning.

Texas' Michael Lorenzen allowed one hit over seven innings, pitching no-hit ball for 5 1/3 innings, while striking out four and walking four.

MARINERS 6, ROYALS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—George Kirby allowed three hits over seven shutout innings, Luke Raley hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs, and Seattle beat the Kansas City.

Kirby (4-3) had been bothered by a sore knee, but was terrific. He pitched out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the first inning after hitting a pair of batters. He gave up Bobby Witt Jr.'s first inning single, then didn't allow another hit until Dairon Blanco reached on an infield single in the fifth.

Kirby struck out six, walked none. It was the third time this season he pitched at least six innings and didn't allow a run.

Raley's second homer of the season traveled an estimated at 432 feet and came after Cal Raleigh doubled on the first pitch of the second inning from Kansas City starter Brady Singer. Raley also appeared to break—or have come unscrewed—the celebratory trident used by the Mariners to celebrate home runs.

CARDINALS 10, ANGELS 5

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Nolan Arenado homered and Matt Carpenter had a tying two-run single during St. Louis' eight-run seventh inning, and the Cardinals rallied from a four-run deficit for a victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Iván Herrera had two hits during the Cardinals' massive rally, and he capped it with a two-run single as St. Louis sent 14 hitters to the plate against the Angels' best relievers.

Kevin Pillar had an early two-run homer and a late RBI single for the Angels, who have lost four of five during their homestand to drop to 5-15 at the Big A this season.

Masyn Winn and Nolan Gorman had two hits apiece for the Cardinals, who won back-to-back games after a seven-game skid. St. Louis is in Anaheim for only the third series in the franchises' history, and the first since May 2016.

Matthew Liberatore gave up four runs on five hits and two walks while failing to get out of the fourth inning in the reliever's second start of the year for St. Louis.

ROCKIES 5, PADRES 4

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Elehuris Montero had two hits and three RBIs to lead Colorado to a victory over the San Diego and extend their winning streak to five games.

Colorado relievers walked the bases loaded in both the eighth and ninth innings, but the Padres failed to score in either inning. San Diego drew 11 walks in the game and stranded nine runners in the loss.

The Rockies are 4-16 away from home with eight games over the next 10 days on their current road trip. The win snapped Colorado's five-game losing streak at Petco Park, dating to the opening series of the 2023 season.

Colorado's Jalen Beeks walked the bases loaded in the ninth, but didn't give up a run and earned his fourth save. He got Manny Machado to hit into a game-ending double play. Rockies right-fielder Jake Cave made an outstanding diving catch on the run to take away a possible hit by Luis Arraez in the inning.

DODGERS 6, GIANTS 4, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Will Smith hit a two-run double in the 10th inning to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a win over San Francisco for their fourth straight victory this season over their rivals.

Mookie Betts hit his 50th career leadoff homer and Kiké Hernández added a pinch-hit homer in the seventh inning to tie the game at 4 for Los Angeles.

The Dodgers then won it in the 10th when Smith hit a drive to center field off Taylor Rogers (1-2) to give Los Angeles the lead.

Blake Treinen (1-0) picked pinch-runner Tyler Fitzgerald off of first as part of a scoreless ninth to get the win. J.P. Feyereisen got three outs for his first save as the Dodgers extended a franchise record by allowing four runs or fewer in 20 straight games.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, REDS 5

PHOENIX (AP)—Kevin Newman's two-run single in the bottom of the ninth inning capped a four-hit night and gave Arizona a victory over Cincinnati Reds.

Newman had a pair of doubles and a single before coming to the plate in the ninth against Alexis Diaz (1-2), who had loaded the bases with a hit batsman and two walks. Newman lined the pitch to shallow right to score Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Gabriel Moreno.

Justin Martinez (1-0), the fifth Arizona pitcher of the game, picked up his first major league win.

The Reds have lost 11 of their last 12 games, including a three-game sweep by the Diamondbacks in Cincinnati last week.

AP: Lions, Goff agree on $212M, 4-year extension with $170M guaranteed

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

The Detroit Lions have looked in vain for a playoff-winning quarterback for decade after decade.

When the search ended with Jared Goff under center, the franchise was determined not to let him get away.

The Lions and Goff agreed to a $212 million, four-year contract extension, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person told The Associated Press on Monday that the deal includes $170 million in guarantees, and spoke on condition of anonymity because the terms were not announced.

Goff ended the Motor City's misery in January, helping the Lions earn two playoff victories in one postseason for the first time since winning the 1957 NFL title.

AP

Detroit Lions quarterback Jared Goff passes against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the first half of an NFL football NFC divisional playoff game, Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, in Detroit.

He led the franchise to its first postseason win in 32 years, beating the Matthew Stafford-led Los Angeles Rams in an NFC wild-card game, and to a victory over Tampa Bay before losing at San Francisco in the NFC championship game.

Lions general manager Brad Holmes acquired Goff and a pair of first-round picks for Stafford three years ago from the Rams, his former team.

The 29-year-old Goff, who was entering the final year of his deal, will be under contract in Detroit through the 2028 season.

He has given the Lions a lot of reasons to keep him around.

Goff didn't get down emotionally, even when the Lions won just three games in his debut year with them in 2021 and followed up the next season with a 1-6 start.

"He's the captain of the ship," Detroit center Frank Ragnow said. "He's as steady as it gets."

Goff, who is from Novato, California, starred at California before the Rams drafted him No. 1 overall in 2016. He helped the Rams reach the Super Bowl in his third season, and they traded him away two years later and went on to win an NFL championship with Stafford.

Outside of the Lions' organization, Goff was viewed as a stopgap quarterback when he was acquired as a castaway.

Chiefs will open regular season at home vs. Ravens in AFC title game rematch

NEW YORK (AP)—The Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs will open the regular season at home against the Baltimore Ravens on Sept. 5 in a rematch of the AFC title game, the NFL announced Monday.

The NFL will release the entire 2024 season schedule on Wednesday night on the NFL Network.

The Chiefs beat the Ravens 17-10 in the AFC championship game in January and went on to defeat the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 in overtime in the Super Bowl.

The Chiefs-Ravens opener at Arrowhead Stadium will be a Thursday night game on NBC. The Chiefs are favored by three points, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

The league also announced the Dallas Cowboys will open in Cleveland on Sept. 8, which will also be the broadcast debut for Tom Brady with Fox. Brady retired before last season after winning seven Super Bowls.

Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs will be going for an unprecedented third straight Super Bowl title and fourth in six years this season. Mahomes is 4-1 in his career against Lamar Jackson and the Ravens.

Kansas City will begin the season at home for the second straight year and is 9-2 in openers under Andy Reid. The Chiefs lost 21-20 to Detroit in their 2023 opener.

KANOA

From page 16

the team's chemistry, teamwork, and skill brought home the title for Kanoa again—this time in the U14 division.

They took down Shirley's, 6-3. Aubrey White and Beatrice Gross' cleats were ball magnets as they once again led Kanoa to another championship.

Within five minutes, Gross scored one, while White scored two for an early 3-0 lead. Before Shirley's could respond, Gross tied White with a goal in the eighth minute for a 4-0 game.

Shirley's had enough and within a minute, Darshwana Chhetri found the back of the net to get them on board, 1-4. Chhetri took it into her own hands to nip away at Kanoa's lead, and another minute later, scored their second goal to cut the lead in half, 2-4.

However, Kanoa's power duo of White and Gross weren't done yet as White finished the hat-trick in the 14th minute to put them up by three, 5-2. Gross quickly followed suit and in the blink of an eye, she completed her hat-trick for a 6-2 game.

The rest of the first half slipped away quietly as Shirley's tried to get their bearings and get back in the game. Kanoa was finally silent and another goal by Shirley's made by Princess Gariguez gave them a glimmer of hope for a comeback as the lead was once again cut in half. But, it was too little too late as time ran out before they could hack away again.

White was awarded the Golden Boot with the most goals of the season in the U14 girls division.

On Kanoa's team with Gross and White were Yelynn Ha, Elikristiana Iglecias, Gabriella Mitchell, Trisha Abuan, Faith Arriola, Rhodalyn Zandueta, Phynix Nogis, Quiara Sanchez, and Hayven Moteisu.

In the U14 boys title showdown, MP United took down Latte FC, 4-2.

MP United thought they would have a quiet path to victory, but Latte came to life in the second half. Before then however, MP United's dynamic duo Landon Springer and Taiga Namai-Scoggins were on a tear.

By the 16th minute, Springer had scored two goals, while Namai-Scoggins netted one for a 3-0 lead.

The towering lead didn't deter Latte from putting up a fight though and it was only a matter of time before they found an opening. Reprieve came in the 37th minute by Napu Pangelinan as he scored the first goal for Latte. They were still down by two goals and within four minutes, Springer kicked off his hat-trick to put the lead back up to three, 4-1.

Latte then rushed to and fro to find any break in MP United's defense, when Kian Estolas halved the lead, 2-4 in the 49th. However, as time ran out, MP United held on to their narrow lead and clinched the title.

Namai Scoggins was awarded the Golden Boot with the most goals of the season in the U14 girls division.

With Springer and Namai-Scoggins in the MP United team were Theo Joab, Kanoa Owens, Yutaro Kitagawa, Quido Jambor, Ezekiel Babauta, Landon Pudney, Xavier Camacho, Minato Takahashi, Mateo Angeles, Kimason Cabrera, Ian Ahn, and Izeiah Deleon Guerrero.

Results of the U12 boys championships will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

JINIE

From page 16

in-processing day for the academy set for June 26. Thompson's high school graduation with her graduating class of 2024 is on May 29.

In the academy, she will be majoring in history. When she found out that she was accepted, Thompson said that she was "very shocked and humbled."

"It has been my dream for as long as I can remember, and to have been selected amongst such a competitive applicant pool feels very rewarding. I want to join the academy to serve my nation and be a part of something bigger than myself," she said.

Her older sister Jinju, was also accepted into the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2021. With that, Jinie said many people have asked her if she had just wanted to follow her sister's footsteps, but she said, "While we are both going to be attending this school, we will be having our own unique journeys and paths that will shape the people we become when coming out of the academy."

Jinie thanked her parents for all they've done for her. "My dad for being the most kind and supportive father, and my mom for pushing me to strive for the best without pressuring me. My older sister deserves my heartfelt appreciation; she's not only my best friend but also my rock. I don't know where or who I would be without her."

"To my friends, who were always hopeful and cheered me on during this long application process, I am sincerely thankful. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, thank you for working hard toward helping the students of the Marianas succeed and for being so encouraging when speaking with me," she added.

Jinie also wants to honor her late grandfather for his service in the U.S. Air Force and for being an inspiration to both her and her sister. "Most importantly, I express my gratitude to the Lord for all he does. This achievement is all thanks to Him because God is so good," she said. "My gratitude also goes out to the Saipan Swim Club coaches and family."

Richard Sikkel, coach of the SCC said of Jinie's acceptance into the academy, "Acceptance alone is huge. I am super happy for Jinie that she did get the nod from the AF. Jinie decided to skip the Pacific Games so she could get her applications in, the decision paid off, and she has a few options available to her to choose from," he said. "Whichever school she decides on will be lucky to have her, swimming has taught her perseverance, and I have no doubt she will be successful."

Jinie has been a swimmer in the SCC for more than 11 years and has also been part of the CNMI National Swim Team. She swam and set personal bests in multiple international competitions including the 8th FINA World Junior Swimming Championships 2022, 18th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022, World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships 2023, and the Oceania Swim-

NEW

From page 16

undefeated run hung in the balance, while New Chang Ming's squad of relentless ballers were determined to be the blemish in their record.

Bridge Capital was undefeated for a reason and they showed their spunk in the first quarter, but New Chang Ming's drive and spirit shone throughout the game. Turnovers and mistakes at the net caused Bridge Capital a few baskets that proved costly towards the end.

New Chang Ming's Rodel Pastrana set the tone for the team as he covered a lot of ground within and outside the perimeter. Along with Daryl Foronda covering the paint and eliciting fouls, New Chang Ming enjoyed a huge 49-29 lead at the half.

Bridge Capital could only play catchup to New Chang Ming as the lead spanned from 12 points, to 6 points, then back up to double digits again. Matt Duenas tried to muscle his way in and get as many accurate shots as possible to close the undulating lead of New Chang Ming and it paid off with a 61-69 third quarter.

Steve King covered the outside as much as possible for Bridge Capital, but New Chang Ming's defense reduced him to just two 3-pointers. That didn't stop him from driving in and making fast-break plays, but New Chang Ming's defense remained steadfast.

2024 MICHELOB ULTRA CUP

Team Marianas	7	0
Bridge Capital	6	1
New Chang Ming	5	2
Saints	5	2
La Mesa Kusina	5	2
Martech Ol'Aces	4	3
Pegs	3	4
Brothers	3	4
Akkari EET 1	2	5
Akkari Ruu 2	1	6
Lakay	1	6
Shirley's	0	7

New Chang Ming's Marlon De Dios, Pastrana, and Ronald Bernardo controlled the game toward the end and handed Bridge Capital's first loss with a 6-point margin.

Pastrana led New Chang Ming with 25 markers, Foronda put up 19, and Bernardo shot 18. Duenas had a game-high 29 points, while King scored 23, and Matthew Richardson had 20 points.

In the night cap, Team Marianas remained undefeated with seven wins after they beat 670 Akkari-EET 1 in a blowout, 124-49.

New Chang Ming 99 – Pastrana 25, Foronda 19, Bernardo 18, De Dios 11, Diwa 10, Ferrer 8, David 4, Esdrelon 2, Devero 2.

Bridge Capital 93 – Duenas 29, King 23, Richardson 20, Kim 15, Deleon Guerrero Jr. 5, Atalig 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-22, 49-39, 69-61, 99-95.

SGA scores 34, Thunder beat Mavs to even series 2-2
PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune
Sports

AP: Lions, Goff agree on $212M, 4-year extension with $170M guaranteed
PAGE 15

Kanoa, MP United bags U14 girls/boys title

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

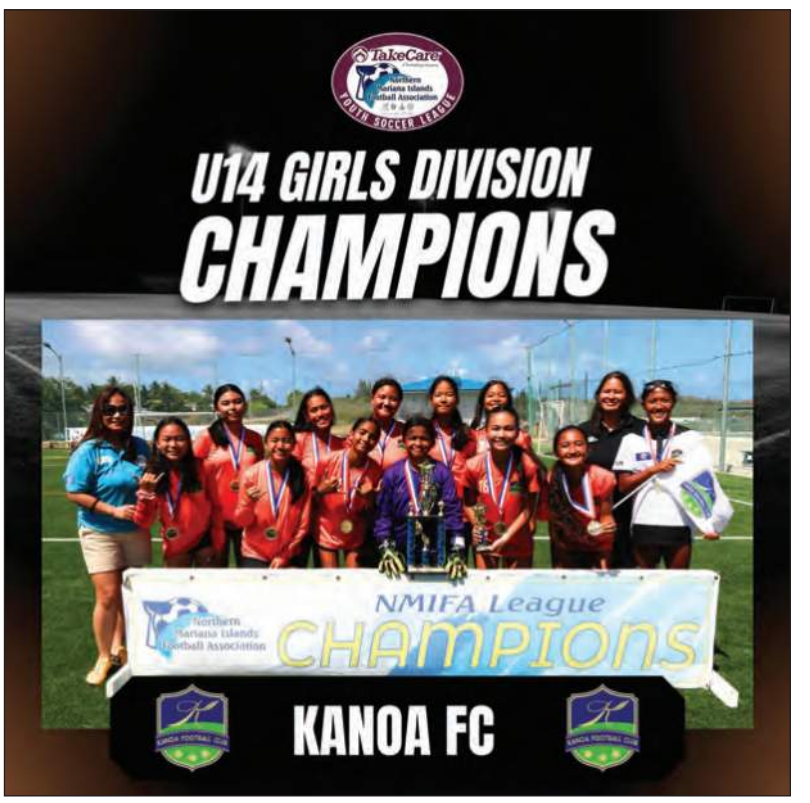
Kanoa Football Club bagged the U14 girls championship, while MP United FC clinched the U14 boys title after the finals of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The U14 Kanoa squad was mostly made up of the U17 team that also took home the title in that division. Unsurprisingly,

See KANOA on Page 15

NMIFA

Champions in the U14 boys division, MP United FC pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



NMIFA

Champions in the U14 girls division, Kanoa FC pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Jinie soars to new heights with her admission to the US Air Force Academy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jinie Thompson is all smiles in her U.S. Air Force apparel. She was accepted in the the U.S. Air Force Academy last May 8 and is set to embark on her new journey after her high school graduation.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

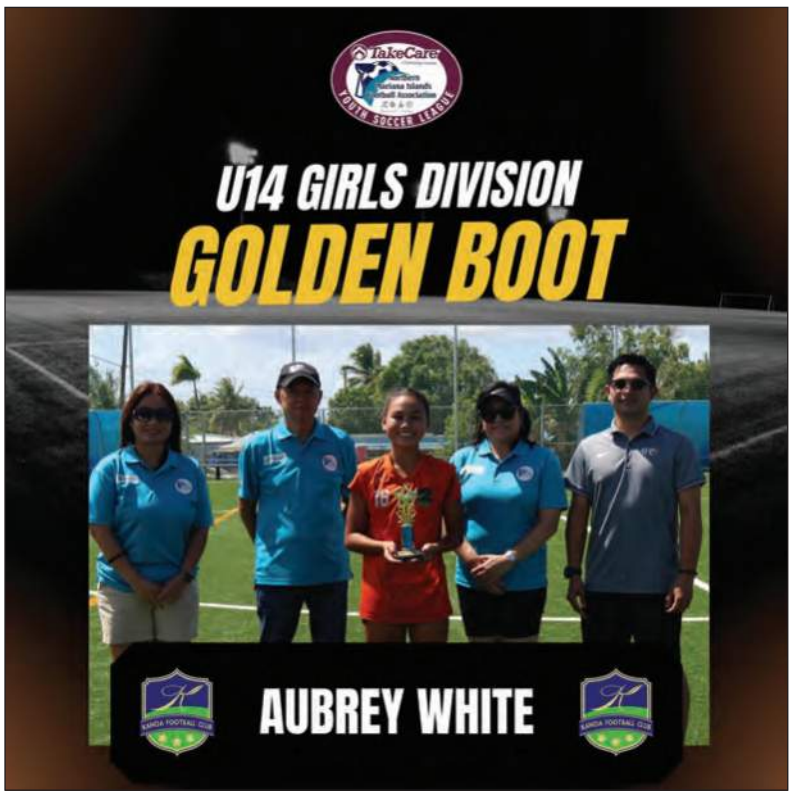
Saipan Swim Club's Jinie Thompson is soaring to new heights as she's been accepted into the school of her dreams—the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The 18-year-old Marianas High School graduating senior got the nod last May 8, with her

See JINIE on Page 15

NMIFA

MP United's Taiga Namai-Scoggins poses with his Golden Boot Award for the most goals of the season during the awards ceremony of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



NMIFA

Kanoa's Aubrey White poses with her Golden Boot Award for the most goals of the season during the awards ceremony of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

New Chang Ming's Daryl Foronda shoots a jumper during their game against Bridge Capital in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup (men's open division) last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

New Chang Ming rings in Bridge Capital's 1st loss, 99-93

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

New Chang Ming rang in Bridge Capital's first loss, 99-93, in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup (men's open division) last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was a close matchup from the start as Bridge Capital's erstwhile

See NEW on Page 15